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FINANCIAL TIMES

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NEWS SUMMARY

ENERAL

Smith faces war—Nyerere

resident Nyerere of Tanzania d in London that war is now vitable in Rhodesia. It was ually inevitable, he said, that ns for the "freedom fighters" uld come from the Communist countries.

Mr. Nyerere disclosed that in lier talks with the British vernment he had raised the estion of possible British arms pplies to the Rhodesian ricans. But on this week's te visit he was so certain of efusal that he had not even ed.

n Dar es Salaam, the Rev. N. bole, claiming "a sell-out," de public a "declaration of ention to negotiate a settlent" in Rhodesia to be signed Mr. Joshua Nkomo, his ican Nationalist rival, and me Minister Mr. Ian Smith. ge 9

ller's release obe demanded

rick Mackay, 23, was jailed life at the Old Bailey after ading guilty to the manughter of a 63-year-old priest two women aged over 80. er the case a storm of protest ke about among MPs over criteria used in deciding to ase violent criminals from cial hospitals. Mackay had n discharged twice in four rs from Moss Side Hospital, erpool, by a Mental Health iew Tribunal.

rector leaves chestra

John Boyden's £12,000-a-year tract as managing director of London Symphony Orchestra been summarily terminated r a meeting of the orchestra's ectors. Mr. Howard Snell, LSO irman, would not comment on move, which follows serious gations by Mr. Boyden about orchestra's conduct during a ent Far Eastern tour. Mr. Boy's solicitor said he would be king this further."

nother soldier lled in Armagh

oldier was killed and another ously injured when a parked exploded near Forkhill, close he border in South Armagh. of the nine soldiers to die Ulster this year have been ed in the area. Ulster Secre- Mr. Merlyn Rees released urther ten detainees.

awl wires cut

and's biggest patrol vessel both trawl wires of the msby trawler Real Madrid in puted fishing waters after ther British boat tried to the Icelandic craft.

abour boycott

our MPs boycotted the Comns in protest at the Prime ister's decision to send Lord pherd, Lord Privy Seal, to resent the Government at neral Franco's funeral torrow. Page 20

elled attack

Edward Heath told an international conference in Rome that too often the case for private erprise was put so stridently it came across as a defence "the rather crude values of ly capitalism." Tory MPs may ll think he was referring to s. Thatcher and Sir Keith seph. Page 15

ourt aids prince

ince Carol of Romania was nted a High Court order ainst his estranged American fe, Princess Jeanne, requiring r to return their 14-year-old , Alexander, to his father's re.

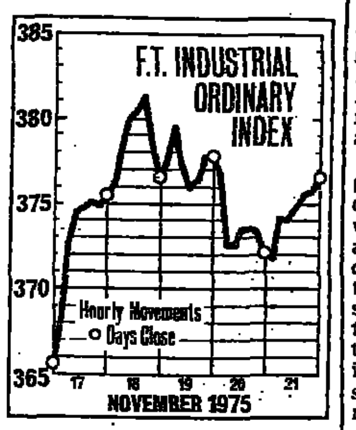
o precedent

ritish Rail's decision not to run xing Day services is not a precedent for other public holidays, r. Gordon Oakes, Environment der-Secretary, told the mmons. Eastern Region cuts ge 9

BUSINESS

Equities gain 4.5; gold loses $1\frac{1}{4}$

● EQUITIES met modest demand and resumed their upward path. The FT 30-Share index gained 4.5 to 376.6, for an 11-



point rise on the week. The FT-Actuaries All-Share index gained 0.4 per cent. to 158.99, making a 1.92 per cent. week's rise.

● GOLD lost $1¼ to $141¼.

● GILTS moved only slightly on announcement of a new short "tap" stock. The Government Securities index firmed 0.03 to 58.56, 0.01 down on the week.

● STERLING lost 55 points to $2.0415, but its weighted depreciation was unchanged at 29.7 per cent. The dollar's narrowed to 2.31 (2.45) per cent.

● WALL STREET closed 2.75 down at 840.76, after being 5.27 off earlier.

● FIRST NATIONAL City Bank and Manufacturers Bank (Los Angeles) are lowering their prime rates to 7 (7¼) per cent. on Monday.

'Freeze Nigeria bank assets'

● FRANKFURT civil court has been asked to freeze the assets of Nigerian Central Bank, held by Deutschebank, pending the settlement of a DM40m. claim in connection with Nigeria's cement problems. Back Page

● BRITISH AIRWAYS cancelled 24 of its 150 scheduled European flights yesterday and is likely to cancel 23 to-day due to a maintenance workers' strike over TriStar servicing. Passengers are still being found flights. Page 15

● DAILY TELEGRAPH and Daily Mirror Northern editions are not appearing to-day due to a walkout by the National Graphical Association compositors. The union warned earlier it would fight Telegraph plans to cut 90 jobs from the Manchester office. Page 15

● TREASURY accepts Mr. Wynne Godley's evidence to the Commons Expenditure Committee that expenditure last year exceeded earlier projections, but denies Government spending was out of control. Back Page

COMPANIES

● CAPITAL AND COUNTIES Property Company, which was infringing the terms of six bank loans and a guarantee due to a decline in net assets to £85.8m. (£121.9m.), has satisfied its bankers by providing further security on properties. Pre-tax profits for the year to March 25 declined to £4.2m. (£5.5m.). Page 17 and Lex

● WEDGWOOD first-half pre-tax profit rose 37 per cent. to £3.12m. Chairman expects the current quarter to be generally satisfactory. Page 16 and Lex

● FELIXSTOWE Dock and Railway Company shareholders voted by more than 85 per cent. to accept a £5.25m. take-over bid by the British Transport Docks Board. Page 9

HIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES

easury 3½pc '79-81...	£76¾	+	¼
omanian 4pc Cnsls.	£19½	+	2
ust. and NZ Bank...	430	+	18
eecham	344	+	12
ristol Evening Post	50	+	4
rit. Car Auction ...	46	+	6
rocks Group	45½	+	4½
rown Bros.	16	+	2½
ap. & Counties Prop.	18	+	3½
ollins (Wm.)	110	+	4
ourtaulds	144	+	4
istillers	129	+	5
MI	227	+	6
airbairn Lawson ...	25	+	6
laxo	360	+	8
aden Carrier	105	+	4
ollas Group	36	+	4
CI	320	+	5
acobs (J. I.)	19	+	1½
Johnson-Richards ...	189	+	16
Land Secs.	187	+	4
MEPC	70	+	6
Nat. Carbonising ...	23	+	2½
Norwest Holst	36	+	5
Priest (Ben)	61	+	5
Richardson Smith ...	48	+	5
Robb Caledon	46	+	4
Trafalgar House	106	+	5
Unicorn Inds.	68	+	5½
Unilever	428	+	8
Wades "A"	38	+	4
Anglo-Ecuador	58	+	5
Shell Transport	380	+	6
Ayer Hitam	160	+	7
Selection Trust	485	+	10
Tanganyika Concs. ...	167	+	9

FALLS

Marchwiel	114	−	5
Stewart Plastics	95	−	4
U.K. Optical	106	−	5
Kloof Gold	650	−	40

Government cuts rate support grant by £100m.

BY DONALD MACLEAN

The Government has resisted in part the recent trend for the taxpayer to help finance increased local authority spending by reducing the proportion of relevant town hall expenditure that it finances through the rate support grant from 66.5 per cent. to 65.5 per cent., so holding back some £100m.

The reduced percentage does not, however, prevent a rise in the total grant for the coming financial year of £262m. to £6.852bn.—in view of a rise from £9.910bn. to £10.461bn. in the relevant expenditure by local authorities.

The release of the grant figures by Mr. Anthony Crosland, Secretary for the Environment, yesterday will help authorities draw up their rate calls for 1976-77. It is expected that, partly as a result of earlier steps by the Government to restrict local authority spending, taken in the context of the anti-inflation policy, these will be substantially less than the heavy rises in the current year.

RATE SUPPORT GRANT

(Figures in £m. at November, 1975 prices)

	1976-77	1975-76
Local authority expenditure	10,461	9,910
Exchequer grant	6,852	6,590
(As % of expenditure)	(65.5%)	(66.5%)
Transport grant (included in grant figure)	285	286
Cash limit†	480	—

Domestic rates rose 23% and other rates rose 30% in 1975-76. The actual domestic increase for the period was 34% because of special domestic relief in 1974-75.

† Pre-determined limit on the amount of additional grant payable towards the cost of pay and price increases in 1976-77 not already allowed for in the settlement.

The level of rate increases for the coming year will vary from one local council to another, but, Mr. Crosland said yesterday that they should be "very substantially" lower than this year's. He would be surprised if any authority raised its rates by as much as 25 per cent.

As an additional control on local spending, Mr. Crosland has introduced a limit on any additional grants to be made during 1976-77 to allow for increases in pay and prices. This is the so-called cash limit that has been generally expected for some time. In 1976-77 there will be a limit of £480m. on such further grants, representing some 7 per cent. of the grant announced yesterday. If, however, there are substantial increases above what is expected under the anti-inflation policy, the limit will be reconsidered.

The 7 per cent. ceiling for any subsequent inflation adjustments to yesterday's grant settlement does not mean that the Government expects inflation to fall to an annual rate of this amount. A 7 per cent. increase between November, 1975, prices and mid-1976-77 is equivalent to about 10-11 per cent. between outturn 1975-76 and outturn 1976-77.

This figure has been calculated in the light of the fact that about two-thirds of all local costs are wages costs and that the principal pay settlements which will determine local wage costs in 1976-77 have either now been made or, like the teachers' next claim, will be governed by the operation of the £6 limit up to next July.

Mr Crosland said yesterday that the financial position of local authorities had been strengthened by the 1975-76 grant settlement and the substantial increase in rates. He announced that the 1975-76 grant had been raised by £1 156bn. to £6.590bn.

In addition, he said, if councils followed the Government's

Continued on Back Page

Triumph workers reject participation agreement

BY PETER CARTWRIGHT, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH LEYLAND'S worker-participation programme, already being implemented at a dozen of the 36 factories in the Leyland Cars Division, has received a sharp setback that has effectively removed one of the joint chairmen from discussions.

The setback came yesterday when it was announced that two-thirds of the 7,000 shop floor workers at Triumph's main plant at Canley in Coventry have voted by a majority of 434 to reject the agreement recently signed by unions and management.

The Canley plant will therefore have no representative at the various levels of the participation system. Its senior Transport and General Workers Union shop steward, Mr. Eddie McGarry, will also not be able to take part even though he was the joint chairman of the ad hoc committee with Mr. Geoffrey Whalen, Leyland Cars' industrial relations director, which designed the system.

Mr. McGarry's elimination has therefore plunged the programme into confusion since it was assumed he would play a leading role. There is no deputy chairman or any other obvious substitute.

Refused to sign

An unusually uncommunicative Mr. McGarry said last night that he was obviously disappointed but would accept a "democratic" decision. "Everyone will be discussing our business and no one will be there to take part," he pointed out.

Leyland Cars management put a brave face on what has obviously been a severe jolt by saying that even if a group decided not to participate, the scheme would continue to be developed in other areas.

The situation has grown out of the refusal of Mr. Jim Griffin, a leading Right-winger in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the union's convenor at Canley, to sign the agreement without first consulting his members.

Mr. Griffin explained that he was not against participation, but refused to regard it as a fait accompli just because representatives of both sides had signed a pact.

The situation at Canley could influence the future build up of worker participation much more widely than the problem which recently arose at Leyland's assembly plant at Cowley, Oxford.

Here militant shop stewards encouraged widespread abstentions from voting among TGWU members, but the scheme was still accepted. The result has been that only one of the five shop floor seats is filled by the TGWU. The others have gone to the AUEW.

Worker participation is likely to be high on the agenda of the meeting early next month which Lord Ryder has called with Leyland management, since it can vitally affect two other key issues—productivity and effective investment.

Mr. Des North, plant director at Cowley last night told employees at the North Works there that they should "work harder or we close you down." His ultimatum in a letter to workers at the plant where Maxis and the new Princess models are assembled followed the warning by NEB chairman Lord Ryder that Leyland employees must work harder if they wanted more Government cash.

Mr. North said: "The present performance from the North Works is unacceptable.

"While the output from the lines has improved it has not yet reached the required level. The level of performance in the rectification areas is totally unsatisfactory."

He referred to industrial disputes in the plant involving regrading claims by car testers' tuners and inspectors whose overtime ban is hindering company efforts to boost production and replace depleted stocks.

Mr. North claimsd the disputes were being used to affect the flow from the rectification department.

In jeopardy

"On current performance the Cowley assembly plant is running at a significant loss and all our futures are in jeopardy."

The warning, effective immediately, says failure to achieve the required average objective of 28¼ cars an hour will mean closure of the North works.

In recent months, there have been other management complaints — of shoddy workmanship on the Princess model. Leyland spent £15m. on building a new production line for the car.

● Resumption of production at Jaguar Cars, Coventry, and of full output of Minis in Birmingham depends on a meeting on Monday of the 230 press operators whose strike over work assignments has led to another 1,500 being laid off at Castle Bromwich body plant in addition to 2,000 at Jaguar and 500 Mini assemblers.

This and other recent strikes at Leyland cars—Rover recently lost £5m. worth of production.

New capital for Lifeguard

BY STEWART FLEMING

LEADING LLOYD'S insurance brokers and certain directors of Lifeguard Assurance have agreed in principle to provide a further £1.25m. of new capital for the company in order to ensure its viability on a closed-fund basis. But attempts to find a long-term solution for Lifeguard's problems, either through the sale of the company or the transfer of its business to a major life assurance office, have failed.

A statement from Lifeguard's financial advisers, Samuel Montagu and Co., yesterday said that to protect the interests of the company's 120,000 policyholders Lifeguard will operate on a closed-fund basis. This means that the company will no longer take on new business, and will merely manage the business already on its books, collecting premiums and meeting claims and surrenders.

To achieve this, major shareholders, who include merchant bankers Hill Samuel and Samuel Montagu as wel as Lloyd's insurance brokers such as Alexander Howden, C. E. Heath and Bland Payne, and certain leading Lloyd's insurance brokers, who are not shareholders, have agreed to put in a further £1.25m. of capital.

It was made clear last night that well over £3m. of new capital would have been required for the company to continue in business as an expanding operation. The failure to sell the company reflects the heavy capital investment needed.

It was not entirely clear why attempts to persuade a major life office to take on Lifeguard as a closed fund were unsuccessful. One factor, however, is probably the uncertainty about the capital needed. The figure of £1.25m. will be the best actuarial estimate of the company's needs on certain assumptions. If these assumptions prove to be too optimistic, more capital may be required. If things go well for the company, the figure may prove generous.

The commitment of the shareholders and insurance brokers to support the company is, however, limited to a figure of around £1.25m. If significantly more capital were to be required, there would have to be renewed discussions.

The Department of Trade, which is responsible for regulating insurance companies, has been kept informed of the discussions and the plan to meet the company's financial needs.

£600m. stock to aid public sector

BY MICHAEL BLANDEN

ANOTHER £600m. Government stock issue was announced yesterday to sustain the Bank of England's efforts to finance the public-sector borrowing requirement.

The new stock is a further tranche of 10½ per cent. Treasury stock 1979, issued at a price of £95.50 per cent. on terms almost exactly in line with the current market level.

The news came as a further cut in interest rates in New York raised hopes that the level of rates in London might come down again and create a helpful climate for sales of gilt-edged stocks.

First National City Bank of New York and the Bank of America cut their prime lending rates from 7¼ to 7 per cent. But it is thought that the Citibank move may lead to a general drop to 7¼ per cent. starting next week.

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate remained at 11¾ per cent. yesterday, after dropping from 12 per cent. a week before. The average rate on Treasury bills at the weekly tender, however, was down from 11.0884 per cent. to 11.0385 per cent. It was thought that against the background of the down-trend in New York next week might see another reduction in MLR.

This helped the gilt-edged market absorb the news of the new stock while maintaining a firm undertone. The new issue followed the news that the short-medium stock, 11½ per cent. Treasury 1981, was close to exhaustion and had ceased to operate as a "tap" stock.

The new stock, yielding 10.99 per cent. flat and 11.96 per cent. to final redemption, provides the Bank with a new vehicle for managing the short end of the gilt-edged market and for financing the Government deficit.

£ in New York

—	Nov. 21	Previous
Spot	$2.0375-375	$2.0465-0469
1 month	1.12-1.06 dis	0.96-0.9 dis
3 months	2.53-2.46 dis	2.45-2.40 dis
12 months	7.90-7.80 dis	7.80-7.70 dis

Nation comes first, Healey tells doctors

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR STAFF

MR. DENIS HEALEY, Chancellor of the Exchequer, last night threw his weight behind Ministers' warnings that the pay policy would not be sacrificed to meet the overtime pay demands of junior hospital doctors.

He was speaking in his Leeds constituency only hours after angry exchanges in the House of Commons in which the Opposition unsuccessfully called for the Prime Minister to intervene and break the deadlock. He said:

"If the doctors insist on their present collision course they will not only risk inflicting needless suffering on their patients; they will also risk destroying the only basis on which Britain can hope to restore economic strength."

Two million workers had settled within the £6 policy and the miners had promised to do so as well, Mr. Healey said. About 200,000 other workers would have to set aside earlier agreements to conform with the policy.

Earlier, Mrs. Barbara Castle, Social Services Secretary, in a debate on the Queen's Speech, repeated to the Commons what she and Mr. Michael Foot, Employment Secretary, had told the junior doctors' negotiators on Thursday: that the overtime money could not be increased without breaking the policy.

Counters

The doctors on Thursday refused to accept that the pay policy is being fairly interpreted and are calling for official national industrial action from next Thursday. Already some 7,000 junior doctors are imposing sanctions in 300 hospitals.

In the north-west doctors already working a 40-hour "emergencies-only" week were accused of "using innocent lives as bargaining counters" by the North West Regional Health Authority.

Yesterday, the Conservative, led by Mr. Norman Fowler, "shadow" Social Services Secretary, said the Prime Minister should step in "to make an new start at conciliation" as he had done in disputes involving railwaymen, seamen and the Liverpool dockers.

A thinly-attended House also heard Mrs. Castle refer to the industrial action now threatened by consultants in protest at the Government's intention to legislate private practice out of National Health Service hospitals.

Calling on the medical profession to accept the will of Parliament, she said she was anxious to resume discussions with the British Medical Association and stressed that the Government was not proposing to abolish private practice outside the NHS.

Breakaway

BMA consultants' leaders are recommending an emergencies-only campaign, similar to the juniors', from December 1 unless the Government agrees to refer the private practice issue to the Royal Commission set up to examine the NHS. Both the BMA consultants and consultants belonging to the breakaway Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association are preparing for mass resignations from the NHS. Both groups, which have overlapping memberships but have disagreed violently in the past, are also calling for a one-day walk-out by consultants on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, as the separate disputes threaten to paralyse the hospital service, BMA leaders are convinced that a solution could quickly be found to the junior doctors' dispute. They are considering some kind of third-party mediation, perhaps through the independent Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

The Department of Health, it is understood, has instructed regional health authorities to adhere rigidly to the nationally negotiated pay rates for doctors in hospitals.

At the same time, it has told authorities they can make payments to general practitioners willing to take evening sessions at hospitals, including maternity services.

ON OTHER PAGES

FEATURES

For latest Share Index 'phone 01-246 8026

The week in London and New York

Equities make fresh progress

The equity market came under pressure in mid-week but there was a fresh revival yesterday and altogether it has been an impressive start to the new account. The 30-Share index touched a new high (377.8) on Wednesday but that was in contrast to the broad mass of the market and consequently Thursday's setback was not unexpected. But selling has always been minimal and yesterday the buyers were back in action. On the week the 30-Share is up 11 points at 376.6.

Any move into new high ground is always a very tentative time for the market; and clearly the fund managers will need little encouragement to start taking profits if the going begins to show signs of getting bumpy. But the "economic summit" in France has helped keep the pot simmering this week, and the fact that sterling has had another uncomfortable five days has been largely ignored. Up to Thursday, breweries, textiles and oils were the only industrial sectors to have actually moved down against the market on the week, while among the financials the weak spots have been confined to the composites (see later story) and banks. Gilts have been very subdued.

TOP PERFORMING SECTORS IN FOUR WEEKS FROM OCT. 23.

	% Rise
Motors & Distributors	+23.9
Machine & Other Tools	+16.5
Newspapers, Publishing	+15.7
Engineering (General)	+11.1
Discount Houses	+10.7
Electricals	+10.5
All-Share Index	+ 5.3

THE WORST PERFORMERS

	% Fall
Hire Purchase	− 1.2
Insurance (Composite)	− 0.7
	% Rise
Property	+ 2.0
Breweries	+ 1.3
Oils	+ 0.6
Merchant Banks	+ 0.4

CU's underwriting bombshell

The third quarter results from Commercial Union have not eased the relative share price weakness of the composite insurance sector this week. Underwriting losses for the quarter to September totalled £21.4m., the group is in the red at the pre-tax profit level and all the indications point to an uncovered dividend this year. CU has dropped a tenth to 135p on the week.

The U.S. market is CU's major headache with underwriting losses here swollen to more than £30m. this year. The group's motor and general liability business takes the blame, and though corrective measures have been put in band CU holds out little hope of a fourth-quarter recovery. Earnings for the nine months stand at £8.4m. against £19.1m., while the dividend—which is to be maintained—will cost around £20.5m. Thus it is likely to be significantly uncovered this year.

At the same time, CU does not expect any real underwriting recovery until the middle of 1976—at the earliest. So the contrasts with this week's statement from Royal are all the more striking. After the disasters of 1974, Royal's underwriting patterns are now more solidly based. The U.S. is still a problem but an improvement in Australia and Canada has led to a £2.7m. improvement in the overall underwriting position, and nine-month earnings are £5.2m. higher at £13.8m. pre-tax. The impact of recently secured rate increases should come through strongly next year.

U.S. rebuff for Babcock...

Babcock and Wilcox set its cash assets in motion on Tuesday with a £33m. bid for American Chain and Cable. The offer was promptly rejected; but Babcock was clearly prepared for a rebuff, and this week the analysts have not been deterred in putting the two sets of earnings and assets together. The sums show the impact on Babcock to be substantial.

Taking in American Chain for a full year lifts Babcock's forecast 1975 profits from £13m. to around £17m. before tax, while the group's net assets rise by £15m. to £100m. And of that total the U.S. would account for some £32m., or just a fifth less than the U.K. The deal would also transform Babcock's massive liquidity position—built up following the sale of its 25 per cent. stake in Deutsche Babcock to the Iranian Government and September's rights issue (which combined were worth over £40m.). Adjusting Babcock's last published balance-sheet for the disposal and the rights gave the group net cash of £20m.; but along with the acquisition costs American Chain brings in net borrowings of around £27m.

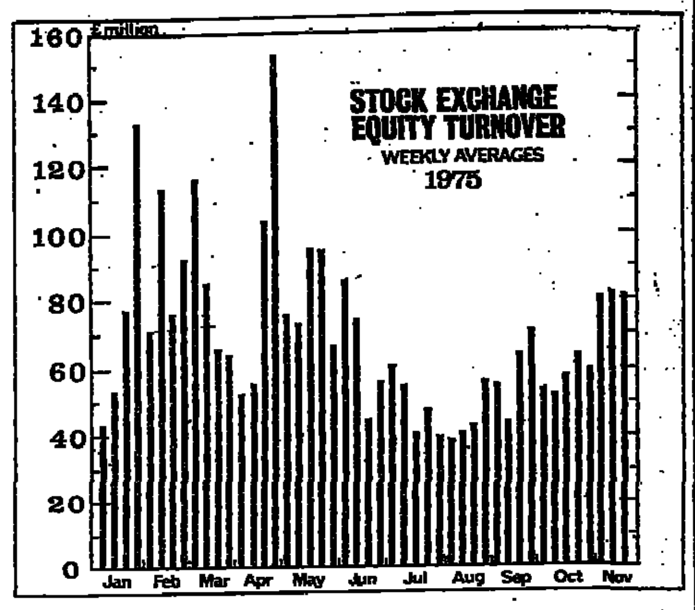
At the same time, American Chain's financial record has its faults. Over the past two years group operating cash flows have only just covered working capital requirement and in this period spending on fixed assets has been substantial. On the week the Babcock share price has eased 2p to 68p for a market capitalisation of just under £63m.

...but Reed still in line

Meantime, Reed International's proposed acquisition of a near 52 per cent. holding in National Amalgamated Packaging of South Africa (Nampak) appears to be proceeding very smoothly. The deal would cost nearly £25m. (just under a tenth of Reed's market capitalisation) and add some 14 per cent. to the historic net assets of the group. But more importantly, perhaps, for Reed is the fact that Nampak's profits look to be largely immune from the world downturn in the paper/paper product cycle: to date this year they are ahead.

In 1974-75 Nampak made around £10m. before tax and extraordinary items, while Reed looks set to drop from £85.4m. to under £40m. for the year to March next. Assuming the deal goes through, Reed may be able to consolidate Nampak for the final quarter this year; but a combination of a full contribution from Nampak and some recovery at Reed could lead to a much brighter earnings story for the group in 1976-77.

Nampak has around 40 per cent. of the corrugated case market in South Africa and some 30 per cent. of the market in cartons; and over the past three years its profits have risen at something like 30 per cent. on average at the trading level. The balance sheet is solidly based with last published borrowings just 30 per cent. of net worth—which contrasts strikingly with Reed where net assets trailed some £12m. behind borrowings of £230m. at March this year.



Doubters impressed by Woolworth

Woolworth—traditionally regarded as the High Street laggard always promising to turn the corner but never doing so—has been winning over some of the doubters recently with an impressive series of quarterly results. Profits for the three months to the end of October of £10m. are at least £2m. above expectations and take the pre-tax advance so far this year to a third at £21.7m. The results remove any doubts about the maintenance of the dividend and indicate that the changes in the company's merchandising are at last making an impact—fresh food and audio components have been selling particularly well, for example. The group has also been gaining market share throughout the year. There are certain parallels with the sharp growth achieved by Debenhams this year, and in Woolworth's case even a very small trading advance will have a large effect on profits given the low starting base of sales per square foot and net margins.

The group's statement was cautious about the final quarter outcome, but the external hope is that the momentum will be maintained—especially in view of the tight control being exercised over operating expenses in recent months. Consequently, projections for the full year outcome have been upgraded to between £38m. and £41.5m. pre-tax, against £30.6m. This would make Woolworth one of the fastest growing retailers this year and the shares have easily outstripped the stores sector in the last couple of months. The trading background is likely to be even tougher next year, of course, but the shares are still on a relatively humble rating with a prospective p/e in the early teens and a yield of 8.8 per cent.

Onlooker

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price Y'day	Change on Week	1975 High	1975 Low	
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	376.6	+11.0	377.8	146.0	Revived demand in thin markets
F.T. Gold Mines Index	229.3	−22.4	442.3	227.4	U.S. Gold auct. fears now denied
Treasury 3% 1979	81 11/16	+ 1 1/16	81 11/16	71 3/4	Low-coupon shorts favoured
Allied Textile	78	+ 7	78	26	Gov. hint Selective Import Controls
Amalgamated Inv. & Prop.	17	+ 4½	75	9½	Rally following annual meeting
Beecham	344	+25	344	116	First-half profits expansion
Brentnall Beard	82	+12	82	30	Bid hopes
Capital & Counties Property	18	+ 6½	38	10½	Better results than expected
Gibbs (Antony)	57	+11	59	22	Speculative interest
Halford Shead	294	+70	300	54	Agreed bid from Alex. Howden
Int. Paint	245	+37	245	96	Better-than-expected Int. figs.
Land Securities	187	+20	251	79½	Increased first-half profits
MTE	35	+ 7	36	10	Bid from Ransome Hoffmann Pollard
Moss Engineering	50	+ 8	50	19	Still reflects prelim. figures
Pancontinental	800	+75	805	220	Gold prospects at Jabiluka
Renold	135	− 8	137	57	First-half downturn
Sheaf Steam	92	−16	195	92	Poor results
Stewart Plastics	95	+22	101	25	Bid approach from Bowater
Swan Hunter	59	+ 7	113	49	Compensation terms hopes
Turriff	88	+16	88	28	Demand in a thin market

MINES IN THE NEWS

Down, but not out

BY MALCOLM DUMPHREYS

THREE major U.K.-based mining finance houses have all given indications this week of how they are, or expect to be, faring during the current period of general world recession and depressed metal prices. The overall picture, although not one to promote wild enthusiasm, is at least that if things get no worse then earnings should not compare too unfavourably with those for the companies' previous years.

At Tuesday's London meeting the chairman of Consolidated Gold Fields, Mr. Donald McCall, said that, although a temporary setback in earnings was expected for the year to next June, no reduction in dividend was envisaged and that looking at the medium to long term he thought the company's prospects were the best they had ever been.

The reduction in current year's earnings will stem partly from South Africa where the company received 46 per cent. of its total revenue last year and also from Australia where operations are facing "a very difficult period." Helping to balance these there could be an improvement in revenue from the U.K. and North America.

Mr. McCall was far from happy about the Wheal Jane tin mine in Cornwall which was officially opened in the latter half of 1971. The mine has been hard hit by rising costs, lower metal prices and a falling off in the tin content of ore mined. It is to be hoped that operations can continue until some improvement in either grade or metal price alleviates the situation.

The pleasing results for the half-year to September from **Charter Consolidated** were the result of larger trading profits in the form of higher earnings from **Cape Industries** and increased investment income following boosted payments from **Anglo America. Anglo Trust** and **Union Corporation.** Charter's net earnings were up from £8.6m. to £10.8m. and the interim dividend has been raised by 0.25p to 2.5p.

A depressed market for copper is the cloud that hangs over Charter for the remainder of the year, however, because a substantial reduction in the dividend received from **Minorco** can be expected. **Minorco** holds 49.98 per cent. of the struggling **Zambia Copper Investments** which in turn has 49 per cent. of **Nchanga Consolidated Copper** and 12.25 per cent. of **Roan Consolidated Mines.**

Both the last-named companies have dropped out of the dividend list and any distributions awaiting payment from Zambia are now even more restricted than previously following a tightening up of that country's exchange control regulations. Lower contributions from copper and gold investments must leave their mark on Charter's profits for the remaining six months but last year's final dividend of 3.96p should be safe enough. The half-year payment even leaves the possibility of a slight increase in the final.

Should do better

At first glance the results from **Selection Trust** for the first half of the year to next March are disappointing, with attributable earnings down from £3.5m. to £2.1m. But the interim dividend is held at 5p (on the capital increased by the take-over of CAST) and therein lies the key. In contrast with previous years, it would appear that the second half will produce more than the first.

Dividends are due in the current half-year from the important West African diamond interests, the South-West African **Tsumeb** base-metal producer and the gold-uranium **Southvaal** in South Africa. The **South Bay** copper operation in Canada should fare no worse, while in Western Australia the young **Spargoville** nickel mine should be less hampered by teething troubles and, hopefully, labour problems.

The **Mt. Newman** iron ore operation in Western Australia has been also hit by labour unrest so it should do better in the second half. Overall it seems that Selection Trust's full-year earnings could well be only a little below the £5.1m. achieved in 1974-75, while the dividend of 14p should be at least maintained.

Coal's come-back

Full details have been released this week of the proposals for the amalgamation of **Anglo American Corporation's** South African coal interests into **Anglo American Coal Corporation** (Amcoal). The vehicle for the merger is **Vereeniging Estates** which will change its name to Amcoal and subdivide its R2 shares into 50 cent shares. Amcoal's capital will be 26m. shares of 50 cents of which 23.5m. will be issued.

The group's combined output is around 20m. tonnes a year **at the moment** and is expected to rise to 23m. tonnes next year and expand quickly thereafter. In addition, Anglo has said that it will pass over to Amcoal contracts already approved in principle for the export of 100m. tonnes of bituminous coal over a 20-year period.

Amcoal's earnings are estimated at 108 cents for 1976 from which dividend payments totalling 38 cents are expected. Dealings in the shares will start on January 5 and they should appeal to all those who have faith in the long-term outlook for coal as an energy source, rather in the same way that the merger in mid-1972 of **OFSIT** and **WRIT** into **Anglo American Gold Investment** did to believers in gold who were later proved to be so right.

Staying with coal, the **General Mining** group's **Trans-Natal Coal Corporation** has announced a R65m. (£36.7m.) venture to be known as **Ermelo Mines** which it will bring to fruition by 1978 in conjunction with **BP Southern Africa** and **Total Exploration South Africa.** The yearly planned output of 3m. tonnes of low sulphur steam coal will all be for export which, it is estimated, will bring in R45m.

It is reckoned in Johannesburg that this could mean an extra 20 cents per share on TNCC's earnings which were only 19 cents for the year to last June. The new mine will be managed by General Mining with BP and Total handling the marketing.

This is a further example *which bears out the views expressed from time to time in these columns that the oil producing companies will eventually tie in with mining concerns in the field of energy resources.* One such marriage was between America's **Getty Oil** and Australia's **Pancontinental Mining** back in 1971 before the latter had proved the uranium mine which has now been established at Jabiluka in Australia's Northern Territory.

Gold as well

Latest drilling at Jabiluka has confirmed the existence of a gold deposit within the No. 2 uranium orebody. Indicated gold ore reserves are put at 410,000 tonnes grading a good 10.35dwts gold per tonne and 120,000 tonnes of inferred ore grading 8.04dwts. Application has been made for eight gold *mining leases over the gold ore* body which is said to still be open for a limited distance to the south and west.

In the meantime, Pancontinental is continuing to build up its uranium ore reserves at Jabiluka and a further announcement on them is expected in due course. The company is, however, still awaiting Government permission both to bring the uranium deposit to production and to sell the output therefrom. But a gold mine, with uranium as a by-product, would need no such sanction and it should not be forgotten that gold mining in Australia is conducted on a tax free basis. Getty Oil has a 35 per cent. stake in the Jabiluka deposit while the Consolidated Gold Fields group has a 15 per cent. holding in Pancontinental.

Remaining in Australia but reverting to coal, the RTZ group's 80.7 per cent. owned **Conzinc Rio-Tinto of Australia** has taken up the 5 per cent. interest relinquished in July by **Western Mining** in the $500m. (£309m.) Hail Creek coking coal project in Queensland. CRA is also acquiring a further 26 per cent. interest from **Associated Australian Resources.**

Hail Creek already has a basic agreement with Japan for the supply of 66m. tonnes of coal over 15 years and a decision on bringing the mine to production is expected by April 1977 at the very latest. The share deal is subject to Australian Government approval and, if granted, will leave AAR with a 42 per cent. stake in Hail Creek, CRA 31 per cent., **IOL Petroleum** (in which CRA holds 53 per cent.) 12 per cent., **Sumitomo** 5 per cent. and **Marubeni Corporation** 10 per cent. IOL also holds some 13 per cent. of AAR which further increases CRA's beneficial interest.

The RTZ group's only other main coal interest is also in Queensland through CRA's 57 per cent. holding in the Blair Atholl steaming coal project which at the moment only supplies local needs but which could be producing around 10m. tonnes a year by the end of the decade.

The recent setback in the bullion price from the $146 level to below $140 on Tuesday caused our Gold Mines index to fall to a 22-month low of 227.4 on the same day. The metal's downturn was mainly caused by rumours, since denied, by the U.S. Treasury, that another gold auction was to be held next month.

In the meantime, however, South Africa continues to sell gold from reserves. In the four weeks ended November 14, sales averaging around one tonne per week have been made in addition to the national weekly output of 14½ tonnes.

New York

Basically hopef

BY JAY PALMER NEW YORK, No

WALL STREET'S Dow Jones industrial index, which is for all its faults the best indicator of the market's short-term sentiments, has now been hovering between 825 and 860 for nearly two months. Ignoring the market's three separate but all very brief declines below the 800 level, this sideways movement can be traced back to the early spring when the preceding 5½ month bull rally finally ran out of steam.

In this sort of context, this week's net decline of just 12.91 points is hardly significant and, almost certainly, does not reflect any new downward trend in prices. On the contrary, an increasing number of institutions and retail brokers seem to be accepting as a basic premise the argument that Wall Street is now undervalued.

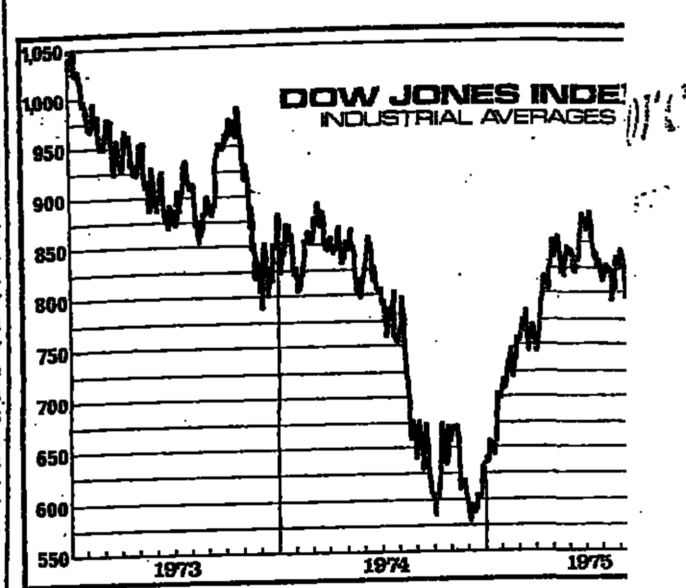
Although it does not necessarily follow from this that the market has the underlying strength capable of generating a major bull surge, the current vogue certainly leans in this direction. "The question," one broker insisted this morning, "is not when or how much the market will rise but how soon it will do so."

The new band of enthusiasts point to the encouraging business statistics now coming out of Washington to back their case. The Commerce Department's third-quarter analysis of corporate profits shows a 17 per cent. rise, the sharpest for some 21 years. While prices are moving higher and the spectre of rampant inflation continues to worry some, the restated real GNP for the last quarter was also good news. Against earlier estimates of an 11.2 per cent. gain, it now appears that the rise was over 13 per cent.

The New York City fi problem continues to a drag on the market and c it would seem that the tically forecast upward would have little chance ting under way until th But, at the same time, t ket now has an autho report telling it what always hoped—to wit a new computer study by tions Incorporated stati the financial impact of default has been largely fully discounted.

Perhaps even more w in the short term, thou the totally unexpected d cut announced earlier th by Marine Midland America's 12th largest ba ing company. In the co existing worries over larg ing loans to New York C the financially trouble estate investment trus move sent shudders dow Street.

While Marine Midlan strong bank and certainl dire trouble, the market bers all too well that Franklin National's divid in the spring of 1974 signalled the beginning collapse. Share prices o banks moved sharply lo the perhaps pessimistic tion that even the in dramaticaly increased lo reserves might not p strong enough barrier sharply lower earnings r



DOW JONES INDUSTRI

	Close
Mon.	856.66
Tues.	855.24
Wed.	848.24
Thurs.	843.51
Fri.	840.76

TV/Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white.

BBC 1

8.55 a.m. Fingerbobs. 9.10 Star Trek. 9.35 Why Don't You—join us in collecting ideas? 10.00 Model World. 10.25 On the Move. †10.35 So You Want To Be a Salesman. 10.45 "Up Jumped A Swagman," starring Frank Ifield. 12.10 p.m. Weather.
12.15 Grandstand: Football Focus (12.20); Racing from Newbury (12.40, 1.10, 1.35, 2.15); Boxing (12.55); Rallycross (1.25, 2.35, 4.00); Rugby national Weightlifting (1.55, 3.10, 4.00); 4.40 Final Score—classified results and highlights.
5.05 The Basil Brush Show.
5.30 News.
5.40 Sport/Regional News.
5.45 Dr. Who.
6.10 Bruce Forsyth and the Generation Game.
7.00 Saturday Night at the Movies: "The Vengeance Of She."
8.40 The Saturday Special.
9.25 Kojak.
10.15 News.
10.25 Match of the Day.
11.25 Parkinson.

All Regions as BBC 1 except at the following times:—

Wales—9.35-10.00 a.m. Telliffant. 12.25 a.m. News and Weather for Wales.

Scotland—4.55-5.05 p.m. Scoreboard. 5.40-5.45 Scoreboard. 10.25-10.55 Sportscene. 10.55-11.25 Folk Weave. 12.25 a.m. Scottish News Summary.

Northern Ireland—4.55-5.05 p.m. Scoreboard. 5.40-5.45 Northern Ireland News. 12.25 a.m. Northern Ireland News Headlines.

BBC 2

2.55 p.m. Saturday Western: "The Man From The Alamo," starring Glenn Ford.
4.10 Chico and the Man.
4.35 Play Away.
5.05 The Money Programme.
5.50 Westminster.
6.20 Open Door.
7.00 Rugby Special: North-East Counties v. The Australians.
7.50 News and Sport.
8.10 Network.
†8.40 Orders from Above.
10.10 Second City Firsts.
10.45 The First Picture Show.
11.15 News on 2.
11.20 Open Door.
†12.00 Midnight Movie: "Build My Gallows High," starring Robert Mitchum.

LONDON

9.00 a.m. Checkmate. 9.25 A Present from the Past. 9.55 The Beachcombers. 10.20 The Jetsons. 10.45 Junior Police Five. 11.00 The Adventures of Black Beauty. 11.30 Saturday Scene British Pop Awards 1975.
12.30 p.m. World of Sport: 12.35 On the Ball; 1.00 International Sports Special (part 1): Women's Lacrosse; 1.10 News from ITN; 1.20 The ITN Seven—1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00 from Newcastle; 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 from Wolverhampton; 3.10 International Sports Special (part 2): Heavyweight Amateur Boxing—U.S. v. USSR; 3.50 Half-time Round-up; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.50 Results Service.
5.10 News from ITN.
5.20 Supersonic.
5.50 Space 1999.
6.45 Don't Drink the Water.
7.15 Sale of the Century.
7.45 Saturday Mystery Movie: Columbo.
9.30 Within These Walls.
10.30 News from ITN.
10.45 No—Honestly.
†11.15 "Night Must Fall," starring Albert Finney and Susan Hampshire.
12.50 a.m. Words of Wisdom.

All ITV Regions as London except at the following times:—

ANGLIA

9.50 a.m. Pauljs. 10.00 Hammy Hamster's Adventures on the Riverbank. 10.15 Spiderman. 10.40 Adventures in Rainbow Country. 11.10 Clapperboard. 11.35 Tarzan. 5.20 p.m. The Flintstones. 6.45 Sale of the Century. 7.15 Saturday Night Movie: "Return of the Gunfighter" starring Robert Taylor. 9.00 Don't Drink The Water. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Russell Harty. 12.20 a.m. At The End Of The Day.

ATV MIDLANDS

9.15 a.m. Wake Up To Yoga. 9.40 Cover To Cover. 10.10 Tiswas. 5.20 p.m. Sinbad Junior Cartoons. 5.30 Bearcats. 6.00 Sale of the Century. 7.00 Six Million Dollar Man. 8.00 Within These Walls. 9.00 Who Do You Do? 9.30 Police Woman. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Barnaby Jones.

BORDER

9.15 a.m. Wake Up To Yoga. 9.40 A Present From The Past. 10.10 Dodo The Space Kid. 10.15 Manfred. 10.30 Arthur of the Britons. 11.00 The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan. 11.30 Planet of the Apes. †5.20 p.m. Border Sports Results. 5.25 The Saturday Western: "The Outriders" starring Joel McCrea. 7.00 Don't Drink the Water. 7.30 Sale of the Century. 8.00 Space 1999. 9.00 Within These Walls. 10.00 Two's Company. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 The Lawyers.

CHANNEL

5.20 p.m. Space 1999. 6.15 Don't Drink the Water. 6.45 Sale of the Century. 7.15 The Saturday Film: "The Silver Chalice." 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 The Evil Touch.

GRAMPIAN

8.55 a.m. Merry Melodies Show. 9.20 Born Free. 10.10 Junior Movie: "Zebra In The Kitchen." 11.35 Planet of the Apes. 5.20 p.m. Cartoon Time, followed by Highland League Results. 5.35 Riptide. 6.30 Sale of the Century. 7.00 Saturday Movie: "One-Eyed Jacks" starring Marlon Brando and Karl Malden. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 The Collaborators. 12.25 a.m. Evening Prayers.

GRANADA

9.15 a.m. Checkmate. 9.40 A Present From The Past. 10.05 Cartoon. 10.15 Saturday Matinee—Ray Bolger in "Where's Charley?" 12.00 Look Alive. 5.20 p.m. High Adventure—Robert Vaughn and David McCallum in "One of Our Spies is Missing." 7.00 Don't Drink the Water. 7.30 Sale of the Century. 8.00 Within These Walls. 9.00 Mystery Movie: Banacek. 10.25 Cartoon. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 The Collaborators. †12.25 a.m. Time to Remember. 12.55 Theatre of Stars.

HTV

9.05 a.m. A Present From The Past. 9.35 Wake Up To Yoga. 10.00 Sesame Street. 11.00 Orbit. 11.30 Supersonic. 12.00 University Challenge. 5.20 p.m. The Saturday Adventure Film: "Mask of Sheba." 7.00 Don't Drink the Water. 7.30 Sale of the Century. 8.00 Within These Walls. 9.00 The Saturday Movie: "Moon of the Wolf." 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 The Saint.

HTV Cymru/Wales—As HTV General Service except:—7.30-8.00 p.m. Sion a Sian.

SCOTTISH

8.50 a.m. Music Knows No Boundaries. 9.02 Enduring Wilderness. 9.35 The Valentino Mystique. 9.45 Mar and his World. 10.05 More Animate Objects. 10.30 Farmhouse Kitchen. †11.00 Feature Film: "Blue Murder At St. Trinian's" starring Terry Thomas. 5.… Professor Balthazar. 5.30 Su… 6.00 Castaway. 6.30 Sale of the … 7.00 Barnaby Jones. 8.00 Withi… Walls. 9.00 Mystery Movie: … and Wife. 10.25 Cartoon. 10.45 … 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 UFO.

SOUTHERN

9.15 a.m. Checkmate. 9.40 A … From the Past. 10.10 Regional Forecast. 10.15 Woody Woodpecker … Supersonic. 10.50 The Lone Range… Planet of the Apes. 12.10 p.m. … 12.15 Southsport. 5.20 Bugs Bun… The Magician. 6.25 Sylvester and … Pie. 6.30 Bridget Loves Bern… Sale of the Century. 7.30 Don'… the Water. 8.00 Within These Wa… The Saturday Night Movie: "Th… Of Frankenstein" starring Peter … 10.45 Police Story. 11.40 Souther… 11.45 Bygones.

TYNE TEES

9.40 a.m. A Present From Th… 10.10 Ski-ing With Gina. 10.35 … 11.05 The Merrie Melodies Show … Opportunity. 11.30 Planet of th… 5.20 p.m. Cartoon Time. 5.30 Th… stones. 6.00 Space 1999. 7.00 Don… the Water. 7.30 Sale of the Centu… Hec Ramsay. 10.45 Aquarius. … Kung Fu. 12.25 a.m. Epilogue.

ULSTER

10.30 a.m. Jobs Around The … 11.00 Adventures of the Seaspray … Sesame Street. 5.20 p.m. The Fli… 5.50 Six Million Dollar Man. 7.45 … Movie: "Firehouse" starring Roundtree, Vince Edwards. 9.00 … These Walls. 10.00 Rising Damp … Aquarius. 11.30 The Adventurer.

WESTWARD

9.00 a.m. A Present From Th… 9.25 Wake Up To Yoga. 9.50 … Street. 10.50 Look and See. 10.5… sonic. 11.25 The Gus Honeybun … 11.35 Tarzan. 5.20 p.m. Space 19… Don't Drink the Water. 6.45 Sale … Century. 7.15 The Saturday Film … Silver Chalice" starring Paul N… Pier Angeli, Jack Palance and … Mayo. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 T… Touch. 12.00 Faith For Life.

YORKSHIRE

†9.45 a.m. Little Rascals. 10.00 … the Woodgnome. 10.10 Dodo The … Kid. 10.15 Zigzag. 10.30 Pipe… Friends. 10.45 Baldmoney, Sne… Dodder and Cloudberry. 11.0… Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan … Planet of the Apes. 5.20 p.m. … Time. 5.30 The Flintstones. 6.0… 1999. 7.00 Don't Drink the Wate… Sale of the Century. 8.00 Hec … 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Kung Fu.

RADIO 1 247m

(S) Stereophonic broadcast.

6.00 a.m. As Radio 2. 8.06 Ed Stewart (S) (also on VHF) with Junior Choice, including 8.45 Headline Spotters. 10.00 Rosko. 1.00 p.m. Simon and Garfunkel (S) (also on VHF). 2.00 Alan Freeman (S) (also on VHF). 5.00 Paul Gambaccini (S) (also on VHF) with pop and soul records. 6.30 In Concert (S) (also on VHF). 7.30-12.33 a.m. As Radio 2.

RADIO 2 1,500m and VHF

6.00 a.m. News Summary. 6.02 Tom Edwards (S). 8.03 Racing Bulletin. 8.06 As Radio 1. 10.02 Charlie Chester (S). 12.02 p.m. Two's Best (S). 1.02 Punch Line (1,500m only, also 202m Scotland, VHF joins Radio 1). 1.30-5.55 Sport on 2 (1,500m only, also 202m Scotland, VHF joins Radio 1): Rally Special (1.30, 2.00, 3.00, 4.50, 5.30) Lombard International RAC Rally: Football Special (1.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.45); Racing from Newbury (1.30, 2.20, 4.50) plus results from other meetings with classified check at 3.40. 5.00 Sports Report. 6.03 Star Sound (1,500m only, also 202m Scotland, VHF joins Radio 1). 7.02 The Navy Lark (1,500m only, also 202m Scotland, VHF joins Radio 1). 7.30 Radio 2 Top Tunes (S). 8.30 European Pop Jury (S). 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.06 Alan Dell with Music Through Midnight (S) including 12.00 News. 12.31-12.33 a.m. News Summary.

RADIO 3 464m, Stereo & VHF

8.00 a.m. News. 8.05 Saturday Overture (S). 9.00 News. 9.05 Record Review (S). 10.15 Robert Mayer Concert (S). 11.35 Kodaly concert (S). 12.02 p.m. Robin Ray presents a selection of popular classics (S). 12.55 News. 1.00 Foreign Press Review. 1.15 The Young Idea (S). 2.15 Man of Action: Douglas Craig chooses records (S). 3.35 Music of the Masters (S). 5.00 Jazz Record Requests (S). 5.45 Critics' Forum. 6.50 "Tristan und Isolde" music drama in three acts by Wagner, recording from this year's Bayreuth Festival, Act 1 (S). 8.10 The Liberal Imagination of Lionel Trilling (talk). 8.30 "Tristan und Isolde," Act 2 (S). 9.50 The Smell of Blood and Roses (reading). 10.10 "Tristan und Isolde," Act 3 (S). 11.25 News.

RADIO 4 434m, 330m, 285m and VHF

† Medium Wave only

6.30 a.m. News. 6.32 Farming Today. †6.50 Outlook VHF Regional News. 6.55 Weather; programme news. 7.00 News. 7.10 On Your Farm. 7.40 Today's Papers. 7.45 Outlook. 7.50 Today including at 17.50 Keep Fit for All the Family VHF Regional News. 7.55 Weather and programme news. 8.00 News and more of Today with 8.30 Sportsdesk 8.40 Today's Papers. 8.45 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.55 Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour Party. 9.00 News. 9.05 From Our Own Correspondent. 9.30 The Week in Westminster. 10.00 News. 10.02 The Weekly World. 10.15 Daily Service. 10.30 Pick of the Week. 11.30 Science Now. 12.00 News. 12.02 p.m. Robin Ray (S) as Radio 3. †12.55 Weather, programme news VHF (except London and SE) Regional News. 1.00 News. 1.15 Any Questions? 2.00 Weekend. 3.00 News. 3.05 Thirty-Minute Theatre (S). 3.35 Music of the Masters (S) as Radio 3. 5.00 PM Reports. †5.55 Weather, programme news VHF (except London and SE) Regional News. 6.00 News. 6.15 Stop the Week with Robert Robinson. 7.00 News. 7.02 Desert Island Discs. 7.30 These You Have Loved (S). 8.30 Saturday-Night Theatre. 9.58 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 A Word In Edgeways. 11.00 Lighten Our Darkness. 11.15 News.

BBC Radio London 206m and 94.9 VHF

6.00 a.m. As Radio 2. 7.32 Good Fishing. 8.00 News. 8.15 The London Gardener. 8.30 Saturday Scene. 10.30 Sportsline. 11.30 It's Saturday. 2.00 p.m. Close Up. 2.30 London Sport and Music. 5.00 As Radio 2. 6.00 News. 6.03-12.33 a.m. As Radio 2.

London Broadcasting 261m and 97.3 VHF

7.00 a.m. Music in Stereo. 8.00 AM—including news, traffic and sport. 10.00 Jellybone. 12.00 London's Week. 1.00 p.m. Newswatch. 1.30 Sportswatch. 6.00 Newswatch. 6.30 London Profile. 7.00 Artsweek. 9.00 Adrian Love. 1.00-5.30 a.m. Nightwatch—news every half-hour.

Capital Radio 194m and 95.8 VHF

7.00 a.m. Kerrygoround. 9.00 Capital Countdown. 12.00 Kenny Everett with a week's madness concentrated into a two-hour musical maelstrom. 2.00 p.m. Person to Person. 4.00 London Link. 6.00 Soul Spectrum with Greg Edwards: four hours of pure soul sound. 10.00 Tommy Vance with one hour of reggae. 11.00 Tommy Vance with American Pie. 2.00 a.m. Night Flight.

TV Top 20

Week ended November

1	The Royal Variety Performance	ATV
2	Bruce Forsyth and the Generation Game	BBC
3	This is Your Life	Thms.
4	Upstairs Downstairs	Ldn. W/E
5	Crossroads (Thur.)	ATV
6	Crossroads (Tues.)	ATV
7	Crossroads (Wed.)	ATV
8	The Sweeney	Thms.
9	Opportunity Knocks	Thms.
10	Coronation Street (Wed.)	Gran.
10	Crossroads (Fri.)	ATV
12	Ken Dodd's World of Laughter	BBC
13	Coronation Street (Mon.)	Gran.
14	The Cuckoo Waltz	Gran.
14	Celebrity Squares	ATV
16	Get Some In	Thms.
16	Porridge	BBC
18	Beryl's Lot	Yorks.
18	Dr. Who	BBC
20	The Invisible Man	BBC
20	The Dick Emery Show	BBC

Figures compiled by Audits of Britain for Joint Advisory Committ… Television Advertising Research.

Your savings and investments

Blueprint for controls

BY ERIC SHORT

INSURANCE is sold not bought is a common adage, but one that is applicable in most cases. The public generally have little idea of what their insurance requirements are—both general and life. Therefore, they are dependent on the advice and recommendations given by the person selling insurance, whether he is a full- or part-time agent of one or more insurance companies, or an insurance broker.

The individual has a right to expect that the intermediary he deals with is both technically competent to advise him and that the advice will be unbiased so that the insurance will fulfil his needs, short and long term. Yet, anyone can call himself an insurance broker, representative, specialist or any other descriptive term with no formal training or knowledge.

This is obviously an unsatisfactory position fraught with danger. There are numerous complaints from the public of being sold the wrong policy for the wrong reason. The turnover of salesmen in some sectors of the insurance industry is extremely high, and despite the excellent courses given by many companies to their representatives, experience takes years to acquire.

Therefore there was some welcome news this week in that the working party set up by the four leading broker organisations have produced a blueprint of the first stage of an overall plan designed to identify and control insurance brokers. This committee was set up in June at the request of Mr. Shore, Secretary of States for Trade, to consider the position and the committee will be reporting to him.

No details have yet been given of this plan, but I feel that it would be very much in the public interest for at least some general principles to be released so that considered discussion can take place. Obviously some educational standards must be the first part of any plan, but these by themselves are not sufficient. A high degree of ethics in selling life assurance is just as essential and one cannot test for this.

The best and probably the only way to ensure a high professional standard is to set out what is required of intermediaries at the outset and impose heavy penalties on anyone found guilty of falling short of these standards. This involves the setting up of a system of investigating complaints from the public.

I am aware of the problems of such a course. Many individuals are not aware of their insurance needs and the division of outlay between savings and protection is a matter of judgment and no two brokers will think exactly the same. The insurance industry is now suffering from a past lack of educating the public in insurance matters. The current efforts, although admirable need to be stepped up.

I hope that the committee has made some attempt to seek out the views of the public on this problem. Too often the experts are deciding the course of action on what they think the public require which may be different from what the public actually wants. In this era of consumer protection, the consumer should be regularly consulted.

Flexible Mortgage

BUYING a house is for many people no longer a once a lifetime situation. The latest researches show that an individual will on average move at least twice before retirement and it could be as much as four or five times. In general each move will involve a higher mortgage with a later repayment date. Thus, flexibility is the keynote of any mortgage repayment life policy, yet very few life companies have done much in this field.

The launch by Sun Alliance and London Insurance of its Economy Plan Plus recently can be regarded as somewhat overdue, but the contract deserves a closer study. It is based on a flexible endowment contract, which has been discussed in these columns recently, and shows a proper use of such policies.

The basic contract is a with-profits endowment assurance to age 65 reinforced by a decreasing temporary assurance contract. The option date is chosen to coincide with the date of repayment of the first mortgage. This is covered by the guaranteed sum at that date, plus the bonuses. When the next mortgage is secured, the option date is moved to coincide with the new repayment period. This has a higher guaranteed sum and accumulates bonuses over a longer period so that a larger mortgage can be matched without increasing the outlay on the plan.

For example, if an investor has a 25-year mortgage and moves after five years taking out a new 25-year mortgage, his policy could support an amount 40 per cent. higher. The only increase in outlay would occur in the decreasing temporary assurance, but this rise would be small. If, however, the new mortgage cannot be completely covered, the investor can take out a further policy to make up the difference without any evidence of health.

More commodity funds

BY CHRISTOPHER HILL

YESTERDAY THE latest in a spate of commodity funds was announced by merchant bankers Robert Fleming and Save and Prosper, operating from Jersey. I commented a fortnight ago about Security Selection which seemed to be taking the lead in getting its prospectus out but has now deferred the launch until early next month. It proposes to use Roche and Co. in London as the investment advisers.

This fund is also based in Jersey and will be run on cautious lines, although Save and Prosper seems to be circumscribing its investment policy to an even greater extent. There should be a number of other commodity funds appearing soon but all the instigators are worried about volatility aspect of commodities. According to Save and Prosper it has desigend the new S and P Jersey Commodity Fund, primarily with institutional investors in mind, and although individuals can buy (the minimum investment is only £1,000) the purchase has to be through approved agents.

Lawson sells

THIS WEEK it was announced that Lawson Securities was in talks with various other firms with a view to selling its unit trusts. The completion date for the deal is set for December 15 although the chosen offeror has not been named. The Lawson funds amount to over £8m. and it looks as if the figure will be around the £350,000 mark, putting a value on the transaction of something over 4 per cent. of assets under management.

This is a good figure nowadays (probably twice what it would have been six months ago) and indeed Freddie Lawson—the moving spirit behind the Edinburgh-based management company—has achieved remarkable success in starting a unit trust group from scratch. It was only in May last year that he kicked off with the Gilt and Warrant Fund which was in itself an original concept. But his major achievement was to advertise his High Yield Fund in the teeth of the bear market when it was possible to get an 18 per cent. yield from a blue chip portfolio.

His funds have also performed quite well, but, having done with the accolades, I still find it disturbing that the unit trust business can be turned into a blatantly entrepreneurial activity. Lawson learned the trick of selling unit trusts rather than running them from his former employer, Mr. Arthur Pickles who did it with the Ebor, Janus and Jascot groups. All credit to them, but the unitholders who went for one style of management might now find themselves getting another style. It certainly lends weight to the argument of groups like M and G that what they do offer is continuity of management. Still, it is always possible for unitholders to vote with their feet if they do not like the changes.

Views on the outlook

BY CHRISTOPHER HILL

ONCE EVERY few months the overall situation in the stockmarket is sufficiently perplexing to make one ask "Where do we go from here?" and this week has been one of those occasions. The new account opened with an upward leap and although the momentum had diminished by Thursday, it still left a lot of investors wondering whether the penetration of the 400 mark by the FT Ordinary Index was likely before Christmas and what the outlook might be in 1976. The investment management fraternity is equally confused and much of the sentiment now appears to depend on what type of fund is being managed.

For example, private portfolio managers with relatively small amounts of money can afford to think of active trading in secondary stocks while alternatively managers with large insurance funds to handle and income commitments to meet are preoccupied with the counter-attractions of long-dated gilts in view of the 14 to 15 per cent. gross which is now being offered not to mention property. However, the 9 per cent. reverse yield gap is not leading to a herd abandonment of equities.

I have noticed over the years that whenever investment managers generally start to talk in economic terms rather than the stock market, it is usually time to be careful. This is the trend at the moment for rather than being drawn on how equities are likely to perform over the next few months, the experts tends to talk about the likelihood of world economic recovery in 1976 and inflation prospects in the U.K.

When they are induced to talk about equities rather than economics the general view is that the stock market is overbought at current levels and is ripe for a correction. But there is doubt about the duration of such a correction, for there is a general realisation that the technical strength of the market (stock shortages and an increasing flow of money into funds) can make a lot of fundamental opinions look rather silly. What the managers would like of course is a steadily rising market which they could consider to be "solid."

Recycling

THE FACT IS, however, that the stock market is increasingly considered a trading arena which one needs to get the best out of over the short term rather than remaining in long-term investment propositions. For example, John Carrington and Co. (an investment counselling firm), which has flexible sums under its belt reckons that a "short-term period of consolidation is overdue," but rather than increasing liquidity it is recycling money from the market leaders into quality second liners like TV contractors and secondary stores groups. The feeling there is that selectivity has returned to the market but it will be strong again before Christmas.

Unit trusts

THE UNIT trust groups have mixed feelings about the market and in this context one has to remember that they start off with a bias towards equities for there is a tax disadvantage of investing in gilts on fixed interest stocks. But they sometimes partially opt for gilts if they feel that the alternatives are not good. Schlesingers for example is doing this at the moment where its unit trusts with a U.K. orientation are concerned.

They take the view that the market will go higher on a one to two year view but are worried by the yield gap and have recycled 30 per cent. of their unit trust money into long-dated gilts. This process started a little while ago but they prefer to sit it out in comparative safety this way. There is a propensity at Schlesingers to favour overseas markets rather than the U.K. and the technical arguments for a strong U.K. market leave them unimpressed after the experiences of 1974.

But the feeling was still that the U.K. market would be considerably higher by Christmas next year and this was reiterated by Save and Prosper which would like to see it march in step with a healthy gilt market. S and P reckons that all the purely bull market supply/demand factors are there, however, and is loth to sell its quality holdings. What recycling it is undertaking into secondary stocks concerns the income funds where it is important to jack up the yields. This is a common feature of the unit trust business at the moment.

Elsewhere Hill Samuel reckons that a market correction is in order but is fully invested (therefore not bothered by stock shortages) and prefers to take its chance with equities rather than gilts. Warburg, is also relatively fully invested and prefers to remain in the leaders on the grounds that it pays as an institutional investor to be able to get out quickly. And the feeling at Warburgs is that it might be necessary to unload at some point in 1976 if the equity market seems to have fully discounted recovery and the accent turns to alternative media like commodities.

Insurance

THE INSURANCE companies were also varied in their views and guarded in their comments. One of the biggest regarded equities as being technically strong in the short-term with problems over the longer term, while property had short term problems but had long term attractions at current prices. One should remember that insurance companies, with their income commitments, start off with fixed interest investments as their base and the view at the Norwich Union was that it was difficult to envisage the Index going through 450 while gilts offered such a counter-attraction at the long end. It also liked property investment. A counter-weight to this bearish view of equities, however, was the National Provident Institution which has put £10m. into the market this week and is content for the moment to sit back.

But one leading pension fund manager described the U.K. equity market as over-extended and shared the enthusiasm for selected properties.

So it all seems to add up to feeling that the equity market is ripe for a setback though there is no general desire for gilts either. More important, no one seems to be actually selling equities according to my straw poll and I feel most inclined to agree with the Warburg view that one has to keep an open mind at the moment, being prepared to trade and to regard the stock market cycle as more telescoped than was the case in the past.

Changing rates

BY TOM KYTE

THE ANTICIPATED increases in Stock Exchange commission rates are causing a good deal of concern in the market at present. The Stock Exchange Council is reviewing the commission rate structure in answer to appeals, largely from the smaller stockbroking firms, that rises in operating and administrative costs are causing severe problems. As yet no firm figures are available but some informed sources are suggesting that the charges on equity dealings will rise by between 10 per cent. and 12 per cent. with no significant change in the minimum charge of £7. If these predictions are accurate then the smaller investor (one with holdings worth less than £5,000) should not notice any serious increases. The total dealing costs on investments worth say £1,000 would only be about £3 higher than they are at present.

The real fears are held by the larger investors and the institutions and the worry is not so much that the commission rates—currently on a declining scale from 1½ per cent. on investments of over £5,000—will be raised but that the whole structure will be changed and that the commission-free band on very large dealings will be lifted. Many investment managers fear that any significant change in the present rates could have a disastrous effect on the overall level of stock market activity.

Finance and the family

Non residents' securities

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

I am non-resident in the U.K. *for tax purposes but I have not* applied to become non-resident for exchange control purposes. I understand that foreign currency securities acquired ex-premium would be regarded as premium-worthy on my return to the U.K., subject to the certificates of *title being deposited with an* authorised depositary for two years from the date of returning to the U.K. Could you please confirm that this situation applies whether or not I am non-resident for exchange control purposes, and, at the end of 2 years, the securities could be disposed of with the right either to return the full proceeds, including the premiums or reinvest in securities which attract the premium?

In the circumstances you describe, you would be able to sell any *foreign* curency securities acquired out of your earnings abroad after two years from your return to the U.K. The proceeds would attract the investment currency premium subject to the 25 per cent. surrender rule, and would be available for re-investment in foreign currency securities.

If you retain U.K. *resident* status for exchange control purposes, you would be required to deposit any such securities with an authorised depositary on your return to the U.K. These would be subject to restriction, requiring official permission for their sale and not attracting the *investment currency premium.* The restriction would, however, apply only for two years after your return if you had been working abroad for three years or more.

The same two-year restriction would apply if you came back to the U.K. as an immigrant having previously taken emigration treatment.

Shares in joint names

My wife and I have been buying shares in our own *names for some time, but* have been considering buying them in joint names. Do you think this advisable?

It is not possible to advise you without a full conspectus of your financial position. There is little point in joint, as opposed to several ownership of the shares if the survivor is to take the shares, as Capital Transfer Tax would not be payable on the death of the first of two spouses. If you transfer the shares into joint names stamp duty would be incurred and it seems preferable to avoid that result.

Responsibility for a pipe

I recently bought a country property including an adjoining meadow. Although there is no mention of it in the title deeds, I have now discovered that the surface water from adjoining houses is drained through the meadow into a nearby stream by means of an underground pipe. Will you please advise (a) whether the absence of "documentation" renders the right to drain invalid; (b) if *not, who is responsible for* repairing the pipe in the event of damage, and (c) if such pipe damage also damages my property by flooding, would I have any claim for compensation and, if so, against whom?

If the pipe (or a previous pipe in the same position) has been in the land for 20 *years or* more it is likely that a prescriptive easement of drainage will have been acquired by the owners of the adjoining houses. If so, those owners would normally have to maintain the pipe if they wish to use the easement, but would have no absolute *obligation to maintain it—they* could abandon their use of the pipe. If the pipe is not your property (that is, was laid by one or more of the dominant owners) the liability for damage caused by its disrepair would fall on the dominant owners.

Avoidance of stamp duties

On October 4 under Avoidance of stamp duties you suggested that an oral declaration of trust would avoid such duty. How would such a *declaration* be recorded for CTT purposes and in the share register of the company concerned?

The declaration of trust would not be recorded in the company's books—see Section 117 and Article 7 of Table A of the Companies Act 1948. For other purposes a statutory declaration—preferably by a professionally qualified witness to the oral declaration—is usually employed.

House for holiday lets

I understand that under the 1974 Rent Act, if I let a house merely as a winter letting, say, November to April and state this in any agreement I give, I can get possession for holiday letting the following summer. But do I have to go to the *Court to get it back? Is the* fact that I have let since July as a holiday home, sufficient to establish it in that status, and thus only available for out-of-holiday season? Ought I go to a solicitor to draw up a suitable agreement?

As you have already used the *house for holiday lettings you* should have no difficulty in letting it within the holiday lettings exemption from the Rent Acts in summer, and effecting the permitted winter lettings without security of tenure. You certainly should consult a solicitor as to the drafting of the necessary tenancy agreements. You will not necessarily have to go to Court for possession at the end of each letting, but obviously that is the only way of getting out a tenant who is reluctant to go.

Compensation for home loss

I had a lease on a house which had some 2¼ years to run when I was ejected under a clearance order. Am I liable to the freeholder *for any dilapidations,* under my repairing lease? I understand from my agents that they consider the property worth more than offered by the council. Do I just have to accept the council's offer? I understand that part of the compensation in these cases can be for home loss. How is this shared with the freeholder?

You would certainly not be liable for dilapidations, as Section 18 of the *Law of Property* Act, 1927 prevents the recovery of damages for breach of repairing covenants in such a case. If you have not been able to conclude an agreement as to your compensation you should make an open offer to accept whatever figure you are advised is appropriate and, in default of acceptance within a reasonable time, refer the assessment to the Lands Tribunal. The home loss payment under Sections 29 and 30 *of the Land Compensation* Act 1973 is in addition to your claim as the owner of a leasehold interest. The home loss payment does not fall to be apportioned between you and the reversioner on the lease.

Unco-operative executor

What please is the position when, in an estate, there are three executors and one refuses to co-operate with the others?

If the co-operation of the third executor cannot be secured it will be necessary to make an application to the Court for the administration of the estate by the court or for the appointment of a judicial trustee in place of the present executors.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquires will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Travelling expenses

I refer to your reply regarding the allowance or otherwise of travelling expenses under the heading A modernised house (Sept. 13). I let a house divided into two furnished flats for holiday purposes, the house being about 70 miles from where I live. I have twice had relief refused. The chief *reasons apparently are that the* revenue takes the view that property management can only be undertaken by somebody on the spot, and the other that the expenditure must be considered a living rather than a business expenses for which the case of Newson v. Robertson is quoted. Do you think its worth my while to make a further appeal?

There is little that we can usefully add to the reply published in the Business Problems column on August 6 under the heading "Travelling expenses," much of which was quoted in the reply published in the Finance and the Family column on September 13 under the heading "A modernised house." As we said, it is a question of fact in each particular case whether the cost of travel to and from the taxpayer's investment property is an expense of management. There is no universal rule that travelling expenses are allowable, but neither is there a universal rule that they are not allowable—your local tax inspector is really stretching the dicta in Newson v. Robertson too far: the limited application of that decision was indicated by Lord Denning himself in Horton v. Young (47TC70). A finding of fact by the General or Special Commissioners is unlikely to be disturbed by the Courts (even though the Court might have made a different decision on the evidence before the Commissioners), so it is important that the evidence in each case be presented to the Commissioners in the best way; bearing in mind the skill and experience (and inside information) of the taxpayer's opponent. If the sums at stake are significant, you would do well to seek professional advice, including advice on the question of a possible election under paragraph 4 of Schedule A, as set out in section 67 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970

If you wish to conduct your own appeal, we suggest (a) that you elect for the appeal to be heard by *the Special Commissioners,* rather than by the local General Commissioners, and (b) that you look into the question of an election under section 67 of the Taxes Act—such an election in respect of 1973-74 must be made by April 5, 1976.

Insurance

Bomb injury and damage

BY JOHN PHILIP

THE TERRORIST bomb has become, at least for the time being, an unwelcome extra hazard of our daily lives — though the risk of being killed or injured thereby is still far far less than the risk of incurring similar misfortune on the road, at work or in the home. But such events are commonplace and it is the unaccustomed that causes anxiety even though the risk may be small and in the last few weeks quite a number of insurance minded citizens must have had a look at their policies to check whether or not they are covered against bombing — while many *more must have just wondered.*

Life policies

It has long been the practice *of the British companies selling* life assurance not to put any restrictions on their policies excluding death due to war or related risks — so the average life policy holder need not worry on this score.

But in the non-life field, insurers' practice varies considerably. Some annually renewable accident and disablement policies (which may provide death cover as well as weekly disablement benefit), do bear *war risks exclusions as do some* permanent health policies, while others do not. Even so, at the present time, it does not seem to me that the ordinary citizen need be too much concerned with the war risks exclusion his policy is likely to have, if it has one at all.

The *normal* war risks clause excludes "war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities, civil war, rebellion, revolution, military or usurped power" together with "riot and civil commotion occurring elsewhere than in Great Britain the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.

The normal war risks clause does not exclude acts of terrorists, or urban guerillas, kidnapping or hijack—though if insurers were to sit down to-day to draft a war risks exclusion, there might well be a large number who would support the use of such terminology. For the truth is that the normal war risks clause is not apt to exclude death or injury due to acts of terrorism any more than it is to relieve insurers of their responsibility to pay for the policyholder who is killed or injured by a bank robber.

Partly this is because many of the words in the clause have at some time been subjected to legal scrutiny or are susceptible of precise legal definition—an example of the latter is the word "riot." *But perhaps* more important from the policyholder's point of view is that he benefits from a standard legal rule of contract interpretation: that where there is an exclusion clause, it is for the party relying upon it to relieve himself of liability to prove that it applies to *the* particular circumstances: if there is any doubt then, as the lawyers say, it must be construed against him.

Whatever may be the fine arguments on the precise meaning of such a phrase as "act of foreign enemy" and whether that phrase *can* possibly be applicable to an organisation such as the IRA, which draws some of its members from among citizens of the U.K. (so how can it be foreign?), the fact remains that ever since the start of the troubles in Northern Ireland, and particularly throughout the period of terrorist activity in this country, no insurer has thought or sought to apply his war risk exclusions to bomb deaths or *injuries sustained in Britain.*

And unless the situation changes dramatically for the worse I cannot think that any British insurer would contemplate doing so.

Property

Very much the same considerations apply when one turns to insurances on property —on offices, shops and restaurants, on cars, and on the home. Such insurances almost without exception are subject to war risks exclusions—but these exclusions must be interpreted in the same way as in accident *and disablement* policies. So, for example, the "comprehensively" insured car that is destroyed or damaged by a bomb in London is the valid subject of claim in exactly the same way as if it had been involved in a normal traffic accident.

Staying with motor insurance for the moment, the holder of a policy covering third party fire and theft risks may or may not be covered against bombing —not because of the operation of any exclusions clause, but because under such a restricted policy insurers cover limited, specified, perils. *if a bomb sets his car on* insurers will pay, but not bomb blows it to pieces wit setting it alight.

While most household pol are not "all risks" insura and cover only a spec number of perils, such pol will normally be wide en to cover bomb damage insurers provide cover ag malicious damage. At one cover was provided only *respect of damage due* malicious persons acting behalf of any political orga tion (which in some cir stances might be difficul prove) but nowadays it is for British household pol to insure damage due to civil commotion and mali *damage without any* limitation.

The commercial policyh may be in a different insur street, so to speak, for e thing will depend on the cise extent of the cover he bought. Suppose he has o basic fire policy on his sh then unless the bomb caus fire he has no cover. But, of you may say, can thi right—for the standard mercial fire policy include *plosion cover? It does,* explosion in the context standard fire policy means explosion of boilers.

So to have cover against t damage explosion the com cial policyholder must bu addition what insurers extra or special perils insur which should include mali damage, riot and civil co tion cover. At a cost of a 3½p per cent. charged on sum insured this is inexpe cover: certainly it is a economy to be without it.

Free of excess

Incidentally many fire surers require the p holder to pay the first £1 any malicious damage c But this "excess" was long ago, when £10 was a more substantial sum th is to-day, and its signific having regard to present repair costs is minimal fro insurers' point of view, its presence remains a so of irritation to those p holders who have to claim. these reasons some non- insurers provide cover fre excess.

CAREERS AND EDUCATION

Numerous managers, but little management

BY MICHAEL DIXON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BY CHANCE the other day I found again one of those bits of writing which, although read once long ago and since forgotten, condition a person's attitudes for ever after.

This particular bit was by Lawrence of Arabia. *It is from* a letter written in the early 1920s when he was a private in the Royal Tank Corps. He reports that while sitting in the close of Wells Cathedral he watched an unknown child at play, dwarfed by the magnificent iconostasis of the cathedral's west front. Lawrence had no affinity with children, and he gloried more than most in the monuments of culture. But watching the scene before him, he wrote, he realised that he would destroy that unique building so as to save that single child.

All I — as one who would rather look at medieval cathedrals than at almost anything else — can say to this is: Me too!

Lawrence's sentiment seems so sensible a basis from which to view the world that over the 35 years since I first read it, I had come to think I had discovered it for myself. And never has it seemed more sensible than to-day, when more and more elements of people's lives are being withdrawn from the individual's decision and taken under the management of large bureaucracies. And in no sector is the sentiment more apt than in education.

Damaged

Which returns me to where I was in the last Careers and Education column a fortnight ago—at the public inquiry ordered by the Inner London Education Authority into the nearly *two-year-old dispute* at the William Tyndale junior school in Islington.

I can think of no other educational event which has openly raised so many issues of such national importance. One of these issues is whether the bureaucratic edifice of the education *system has grown so* large and lofty that it allows children, not singly but in groups, to be damaged unnoticed.

The "average" school group in this country now consists of 20½ children, one teacher, and one educational administrator or auxiliary. So it is ostensibly unlikely that the children's interests could go neglected. But while the inquiry may yet refute it, the evidence to date suggests that neglect of the consumer not only can happen, but that it has been happening at the Tyndale junior school during the past 18 months.

Overtly the dispute is between seven of the *eight full-time* teachers and the notionally 19-strong managing body of the school, 12 of whose members are appointed by the Labour-controlled Inner London Education and Islington Borough Authorities.

The teachers allege that local Labour Party interests have waged a concerted campaign to discredit the school.

The managing body alleges that the junior school has been *run incompetently, with debilitating* effects on its pupils' behaviour and attainments in the Three Rs. While the school managers' complaint relates to the staff, however, their counsel has declared that the charge of incompetence is directed primarily at the education authority.

Although the trouble has been evidently rumbling since May, 1974, it was not until July, 1975, that the Inner London Education Authority resolved that, assuming there would be no objections from the National Union of Teachers, the troubled school should be fully inspected and the present inquiry—which is now expected to continue at least until February—should be conducted.

Here let me state that the inquiry has already convinced me of the goodness of the teachers' intentions. As the education authority's team of inspectors reported: "The teachers undoubtedly care for their children and are aware of the background to their problems." Many teachers consign problem children swiftly to the sort of classes which have earned the name of "dustbins." The seven Tyndale staff have *done the opposite.* The head's efforts to help the poor strugglers have extended, in at least one instance, to trying to get the child's family rehoused.

But, according to the full inspection, which was admittedly made while conditions at the school were abnormal, the general standards of discipline and of attainment in basic skills have meanwhile deteriorated grievously. On the evidence so far, Tyndale junior school has been run mainly as a therapeutic hospital for the socially handicapped.

Is it right that something called a school should be run in this way? And who should have *the power* and the duty to decide whether it is right or not?

Crucial

These are crucial questions. But unfortunately the education system has apparently laid down no effective answers to them. Dr. Michael Birchenough, the ILEA's chief inspector, said this week that there are not even any prescribed objectives which teachers are expected to achieve.

In the absence of such clear rules, what seems to have happened is this. Decisions by the authority were made by agreement among some grouping of senior officials and political figures in London's County Hall. Among this grouping, the official primarily concerned with the Tyndale school was Dr. Birchenough, whose responsibilities cover roughly 1,250 educational institutions. The *chief inspector's* link with the school was Mr. Don Rice, the district inspector whose responsibilities cover Tyndale and 61 others. Mr. Rice's link with the junior school's teachers was the headmaster. Within this notional system of supervision the head and staff were effectively left to choose their own practices, with the body of appointed managers taking what was really no more than a *limited advisory role.*

But the blueprint of a system is a different thing from the people, with their peculiar personalities and interests, who are its working parts.

Although the district inspector was Dr. Birchenough's link with the school, he indicated *this week that he would not* expect Mr. Rice to consider what course of action was needed and recommend it. The procedure was apparently that the *district* inspector reported his view of the situation to Dr. Birchenough who, with his fellow decision-makers, considered what, if anything, to do.

And although Mr. Rice was the decision-makers' link with the school, he has declared that it was not his job even to give advice to the head-teacher, unless the head asked for it.

So the crucial figure of the district inspector had no power to initiate action at all. He was employed merely as a two-way *conciliator.*

And the evidence suggests that the headmaster, who was the ILEA decision-makers' final link with the active teachers, also took only a conciliating role.

At present, this looks like a case of numerous managers, but *precious little management.*

The decision-makers of the Inner London Education Authority are inevitably much occupied with lofty matters of policy and much concerned to reach compromises with the top people of other structures, such as the National Union of Teachers. It may be that the ILEA chiefs prefer not to empower lower-ranked officials to act in ways which might make these compromises harder to achieve. So it is perhaps understandable that it took months to attract the top people's full attention to the little school far below, and that *it will take many months more* to restore the school to normal life.

But it is not forgiveable. Education is what happens to individual children on the ground.

After spending three days at Tyndale junior while the seven teachers were on strike eight weeks ago, one of the ILEA's own inspectors declared: "It is dismaying that this situation has *arisen and has got to this state.* . . . The children seem so far behind in attainment but their capacity seems to be good and in some cases very good. We cannot neglect them further."

At a time when increasing amounts of all our lives are being taken over by the ILEA and its like, *all I can say* to this inspector's sentiment is: Me too! Even though, in this instance, there is a risk that the choice between demolishing the edifice and saving the child may prove to be more real than metaphorical.

CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No. 89— Petrosian (and Spassky) saw only 1 NxP, QxQ; 2 NxB ch winning for White, and missed 1 . RxP ch; 2 K-R1 (2 KxR, QxQ and the knight is pinned), RxP ch; 3 K-N1 (3 KxR, B-Q3 ch), R-R8 ch; 4 KxR, QxQ.

Solution to Problem No. 89— 1 B-R7, P-B5; 2 N-N6, K-K6; 3 Q-Q3 mate (the "Indian" theme where the black king gets ambushed). *If 1...K-K5; 2 Q-N3,* and mate by 3 Q-K3 or 3 Q-B4.

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Motoring

An executive problem

BY JAMES ENSOR

IE COMPANY director look- g for what for want of a better rd one must call an "execu- e" car to-day has a better nge of choice than ever be- e. Companies such as Peugeot d Volvo, which have had a ong reputation in the two re class, have recently nched 2.7 litre luxury models. hers such as BMW and Jaguar ve widened their ranges by ding new models, with dif- ent engine options. And Mer- les, whose prices were at one e too high in the British rket to be considered in the ne league as Jaguar, has held price levels down and allowed others to catch up.

t is always difficult to define at exactly is an "executive" , so I have arbitrarily taken rice level between £4,500 and 00, which gives a choice of ht different models of six s. I have taken the prices of automatic model in every e, since most buyers in this e range prefer them to nual models. I realise that the e barriers leave out some ex- ent cars such as the Renault S and the Ford Granada, ch are cheaper, and some ers such as the big Mercedes Jaguar XJ12 which are more ensive.

Nevertheless, price is the only d factor in comparing cars ch range in engine size from to 4.2 litres and in length n 15 ft. to almost 17 ft. And t people buying cars, ther they or their com- y pays for them, choose in tly this way.

he six marques, two British, German, one French and Swedish, encompass all the ly renowned engineering ns in the European motor istry. To choose between n has always been hard, and doubly so to-day when cur- y movements and relative ation rates have pitched n all into fairly close price petition.

e Jaguar XJ, for instance, is onger the incredible bargain nce was, owing to British tion and a much more hard-headed pricing policy at British Leyland. Equally, Mercedes is no longer out of court on price —indeed by chance the 230/4 is the cheapest model in the comparison.

How can one choose objectively between such excellent cars, all of which, I believe, are superior in some particular respect to the others. The Stag, for instance, is clearly the most sporting car, in the rumbling engine note, open-air sense. For those who appreciate open touring and are not put off by cramped rear accommodation and luggage space, there can be only one choice.

Likewise, the BMW, in my opinion, rises above all the others in driving appeal. It is more compact, more responsive, and better designed to be driven hard than any of its more sedate rivals. So for the enthusiastic driver, it is the best choice, though he is hardly likely to want the automatic version, when BMW provides such an excellent manual gearbox.

It used to be easy enough to pick out the Jaguar buyer also. The man who searched for real refinement—in ride, in relaxed, predictable handling and in smoothness—would have to opt for the Jaguar. But now, I consider, that the Peugeot offers a very real rival to it and the Peugeot's qualities are exactly those that have in the past made the Jaguar stand alone.

Choosing between the 3.4 litre Jaguar and the 2.7 litre Peugeot with their similar performance and comfort is not easy. Perhaps the choice must be made in terms of styling—the classical, restrained shape of the Peugeot against the very definite and unmistakeable lines of the Jaguar. Perhaps the only driving difference which is substantial between them is that the Peugeot's powersteering has much more feel, but is rather heavier than the Jaguar's.

Mercedes, of course, is still in a class of its own, I believe, when it comes to durability and low deterioration. The Germans have worked steadily to eliminate all the flaws which could make the car rust, buckle or bend and to-day it is a very solid, substantial machine.

Because of its weight and the smaller capacity of its engine—at a given UK price—it lacks the performance of its rivals, a fact accentuated by the rather unsporting automatic gearchange. But it is a reliable, well-serviced car.

Volvo, of course, has also won a name for rugged durability and safety. The 264, with its engine shared with Peugeot, has added a touch of performance and refinement to this mix (which the 164 lacked) and become a much more real competitor. The GL version with its air conditioning, sun roof and other standard features is not obviously over-priced for what it has to offer.

The Best Buy? There isn't one: because they all have individual qualities. But if I were spending my own money, I personally would choose the Stag, and if I had to have a four-seater it would be the BMW.

EXECUTIVE CARS

	Price*	0-60 mph secs	Fuel mpg
Triumph Stag	£4,744	11	18-20
Peugeot 604	£4,916	12	19-21
Mercedes 230/4	£4,998	14	23-25
Jaguar XJ 3.4	£5,198	11	17-19
BMW 525	£5,299	11	22-24
Volvo 264 GL	£5,596	13	19-21
Jaguar XJ 4.2	£5,615	10	15-17
Mercedes 250	£5,727	13	18-20

* With automatic transmission.

Golf

Case for stroke-play

BY BEN WRIGHT

THE OTHER evening I asked in the bar of a golf club in Surrey if anyone present could name the current amateur champion of the U.S. and was met with a sizeable wall of silence. But several of the barflies quickly answered the name of Vinney Giles when asked to name the winner of the 1975 British amateur title.

The fact is that Fred Ridley, who won the American event this year at Giles's club, in Richmond, Virginia, was a complete unknown who appeared determined to remain so. If match-play is persevered with against the wishes of the leading amateurs in America, Ridley has a good chance of remaining unrecognised, since he could very easily lose early in the championship from now on.

But in bending over backwards not to be detrimental to the champion's ability, there is always an outside chance that this 23-year-old Floridan could go on to make a name for himself in amateur golf—only time will tell.

Controversy

A considerable controversy has risen recently in America about the comparative merits of match and stroke-play in deciding a national championship. Giles, who has a fantastic record at both forms of golf, has joined together with three of his most illustrious rivals, Downing Gray, Bill Hyndman and Dale Morey, to attempt to initiate a national amateur stroke-play championship, which is understandably not at all a popular move with the United States Golf Association.

While no boycott or clash of dates is intended by the rebels, I am sure our governing body, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, will watch developments with much interest. For there is no doubt in my mind that the majority of notable British amateurs would welcome a switch from match to stroke-play for our own championship, and to hell with tradition.

There can be no doubt that freak winners are less likely to emerge after four rounds of stroke-play than they are from seven or eight rounds of knock-out competition in match-play, which I see as the most powerful argument in favour of the former.

In addition, in this day and age it is becoming more and more financially embarrassing to youngsters to try to remain amateur, which is why amateur golf is sadly becoming a mere proving ground for aspiring professionals or worse, once again, the province of the rich. Of course, notable members of the paid ranks hate match-play because of the risk to their reputations and the bank balances involved, while the public loves to watch the giant-killers do their stuff as long as both emergent finalists are not unknown and previously unsung heroes—whereupon the paying spectators stay away in large numbers.

The hard fact that remains a threat to future major amateur championships is that many of the best young players cannot afford to take at least a week off from work to compete, particularly when half the field is ejected in the first round, some of them before noon on Monday.

More viable

A stroke-play event like the English Golf Union's Brabazon Trophy competition is a much more viable proposition, in that the last two days are Saturday and Sunday, and less well off competitors can always get in practice at the chosen venue at week-ends before the event. The financial outlay is a fraction of that involved in playing in our Amateur Championship, particularly as the cost of travel by any form of transport grows ever more prohibitive.

In my opinion the home unions should take it in turns to stage, or alternatively produce commercial sponsors to do so, as have the progressive Scots, a national stroke-play championship to rank alongside or preferably above the present Amateur Championship in importance. This is particularly important when teams are chosen for such prestigious international events as the Eisenhower Trophy. Obviously team to compete at stroke-play in the name of Britain and Ireland should be chosen on the strength of stroke-play performances.

There is little doubt that match-play is fast becoming an anachronism at anything above club level because an inferior player can, and frequently does, survive despite playing consistently mediocre golf—just as long as his opponents are playing fractionally worse. While one semi-finalist can win on the last green and be round in 79 to his opponent's 80, the beaten man in the other match may lose a singularly thrilling encounter at the same stage, round in 69 to his conqueror's 68.

All right, the champions of match-play will answer, that is the luck of the draw. But in deciding the best golfer in any country surely the whole idea should be to eliminate the influence of luck as far as is possible.

The argument that seems to destroy all others, such as they are, in favour of match-play is that no other great championship in the world open to all comers, but subject to qualification, is decided by anything but stroke-play. There is a powerful argument for the retention of match-play as a form of relief from 72 holes stroke-play events. But I believe it is the majority opinion that every nation's stroke-play championship should take preference over its match-play counterpart.

For eight years recently between 1965 and 1972 the U.S. Amateur Championship reverted to stroke-play. Of the champions who turned professional both Bob Murphy (1965) and Lanny Wadkins (1970) became "rookie of the year" in their outstandingly successful first paid season. But Bob Dickson (1967), Bruce Fleisher (1968) and Steve Melnyk (1969), all of whom beat Giles into second place, have been far less successful as professionals.

Record entry

Giles eventually won at stroke-play in 1972, while in 1966 and 1971 the winner was the magnificent Canadian amateur Gary Cowan from Deane Beman in an 18-hole play-off and Eddie Pearce respectively. In the latter year the all-time record entry of 2,327 golfers perfectly indicates the preference of the players themselves for stroke play. Surely the game's governing bodies ought to consider only the wishes of the majority rather than their own obsession for the retention of traditions at all costs.

Bridge

Winning rubbers

BY E. P. C. COTTER

NO RUBBER Bridge player can afford to miss *Winning at Rubber Bridge* (Batsford £3.95) by Edward Mayer. It is a practical approach to Contract, simple and direct, unfettered by the excessive gadgets and conventions of tournament play, which can prove a disadvantage when part score and other situations call for special judgment and psychology. I have played many a rubber and some tournaments with the author, and I can testify to the soundness of his ideas.

Let us see what we can learn from *Straining at a Gnat*:

N.
♠ A Q 5
♡ A J 3
♢ 8 4 2
♣ K 10 8 5

W.
♠ 9 8 4
♡ 10 7 6 2
♢ J 5
♣ 7 6 4 3

E.
♠ K 10 6 2
♡ K 9 5
♢ K Q 10 9 7
♣ 9

S.
♠ J 7 3
♡ Q 8 4
♢ A 6 3
♣ A Q J 2

The take-out double, says Mr. Mayer, is invariably misused when it is based on distribution instead of defensive tricks. The opener's partner can then redouble in order to bring the intruder into the open, and choose whether to play for a penalty or a contract.

In the deal above North-South were vulnerable when North, the dealer, opened the bidding with one club, East made an ill-judged double, and South redoubled. In this particular instance, with four cards in his partner's suit, South would perhaps have done better to bid a direct two no trumps. As it was, the redouble was passed round to East who bid one diamond, then South said two no trumps, which his partner raised to three, and all passed.

To the average player, when West leads the Knave of diamonds, it appears that there is no hope of making his contract. He holds up the diamond Ace for one round, cashes his four club winners, takes a finesse in one of the major suits, and goes one down. If he is slightly more experienced, he may throw East in with a third round of diamonds, forcing an eventual lead into one of the major suit tenaces, but he still makes only eight tricks.

The expert declarer, on the other hand, saw further. Realising that East's aceless double is based on distribution instead of high card strength, he places him with a 4-4-5-0 or 4-3-5-1 pattern. He is not content with an endplay after cashing the club winners which does not gain a trick. He is seeking to combine an early endplay, before he cashes all his clubs, with a squeeze by better timing.

After winning the second diamond lead, the declarer led the two of clubs to the ten on the table. He had decided to play East for a singleton club, but the fall of the nine was conforting evidence that his preliminary count was correct. Now he threw East in with a diamond, discarding on the two remaining diamonds the three of spades and the four of hearts from hand and two clubs from the table. Note that the early endplay after only one round of clubs gives him room to preserve dummy's major suit holdings intact.

When he had cashed the diamonds, East led the two of spades. South won in hand with the Knave, cashed the Ace of hearts—the Vienna Coup to avoid squeezing himself—and played his three winning clubs, on which he threw dummy's two hearts. He now had a perfect automatic squeeze position against East, who was unable to retain the King of hearts, which the Vienna Coup had set up for him, as well as the guarded King of spades.

In this way the declarer atoned for his somewhat faulty judgment in the bidding by his superlative play of the cards. I wonder how many players, who shyly admit to being expert dummy players, would manage to bring home this contract.

BONAS WEBB LIMITED

Business: Manufacturers of interlinings for the clothing industry.

Results for the half year period from 1st January 1975 to 12th July 1975

	1975 £	1974 £
Turnover	1,122,081	1,316,603
Profit pre-tax (1974: Loss)	32,882	(24,316)
Deferred taxation (1974: Corporation Tax credit)	10,000	16,618
Profit post-tax (1974: Loss)	22,882	(7,698)
Minority interests	1,770	(9,073)
Pre-acquisition profits	—	(10,879)
Attributable	21,112	(27,650)

The company has made a welcome return to profits. The worst textile recession in living memory has made the task difficult but in spite of this an increase in turnover is occurring in the second half of the year. We face the future with cautious optimism. Despite the return to profitability, your Board does not consider it appropriate to pay an interim dividend.

Travel

Musical Days in the Country

BY PAUL MARTIN

SEVERAL YEARS ago, before turning his attention to the cinema and directing such memorable but controversial films as *The Music Lovers*, *Mahler* and his current film centred around Franz Liszt, Ken Russell had made his mark on BBC-tv with his imaginative treatments of the lives and careers of Delius, Debussy and Elgar, among others.

The Elgar film was perhaps the most effective in placing the composer in relation to the countryside where he lived and worked among the Malvern Hills. *For me it set up a chain* reaction, prompting a pursuit of the careers of different composers and authors through places where they lived and worked at different periods.

Remembering that the young Mozart played before the Empress Maria Theresa in a salon I visited in Schönbrunn Palace, I would dearly love to follow the Mozart family from Augsburg through to Salzburg and later on to Vienna, Prague and Paris before, finally, returning to Vienna. For the moment, however, I have settled for something much nearer home recalling some of the places in Essex and Suffolk linked to two distinguished British composers of different generations, Gustav Holst and Benjamin Britten.

Gustav Holst's daughter, Imogen, recalls the composer's first glimpse of Thaxted on a walking holiday in 1913. He subsequently stayed in the area first in a thatched cottage, since burnt down, at the adjoining hamlet of Monk Street, where he began writing *The Planets*, and then at The Steps in the main street of the little town of Thaxted. It was there that he wrote his *Choral Symphony*, and a plaque recalls his stay there from 1917 to 1925.

Widows' cottages, Thaxted.

I drove into Thaxted in the early morning of a blazing August day when the heat mist, with all its promise of the warmth to come, was just clearing around the dominating spire of the church of St. John the Baptist in its setting at the top of the hill. Thaxted is a compact and quite delightful country town and I was encouraged to see how much restoration work was being carried out on the 15th-century Guild Hall. There are some beautiful half-timbered houses near the church, many of them faced with ornate decorative plaster work.

Holst's Thaxted period led to the first Whitsun Festival in 1916, a tradition since revived in the annual September festivals with performances of oratorio in the superb acoustics of the church, mediaeval fairs and exhibitions. A concert last September, devoted to English music, included The Planets and Purcell's Chacony in G Minor, edited by Benjamin Britten. From Thaxted I drove on to visit several towns and villages that now play their part in the Aldeburgh Festival.

The Aldeburgh Festival, which has grown in stature annually, was founded in 1948 by Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears and Eric Crozier. Held in June, it has since become a major European musical event and has already spread far beyond its original home, the small Suffolk seaside town of Aldeburgh. It has also survived a disastrous fire, when the magnificent concert hall, built in the old Maltings at Snape, was burnt down in 1969 but rebuilt in time for the festival the following year.

The Maltings is in use throughout the year, with concerts and an arts and antiques fair, and I know of no concert hall more beautifully situated alongside the marshy, reedy banks near the River Alde. That same river flows through Orford from where there is access to the sea and, at the quayside, a pleasant plethora of masts in an attractive yachting and boating area.

The church at Orford also plays a role in the Festival, the original building dating from the reign of Henry II who built the castle that brought prominence to the little town formerly known as "Oreford-nigh-the-Seas." The roads that lead through Tunstall and Rendlesham Forests, shaded by the deep green of the conifers, provide pleasant and leisurely driving along roads in pleasantly uncrowded conditions even in August.

The Aldeburgh Festival has also brought new life to some of the magnificent Suffolk "wool" churches and considerable restoration is being carried out on the lovely angel roof in the church at Blythburgh *standing in virtual isolation on* the mudflats of this now silted-up but once important port.

Finally, perhaps the most remarkable setting for concerts held in the open air is the shell of Framlingham Castle where little remains apart from the well-preserved encircling walls. The town, with its attractively lop-sided square, is full of history. It was here that Mary Tudor learnt she had become Queen, and there are some elaborate Howard tombs in the parish church.

★

FURTHER INFORMATION: Aldeburgh Festival, Festival Offices, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5AX. Thaxted Festival, The Bullring, Thaxted, Dunmow, Essex. Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, Cornhill, Ipswich.

★

Your week-end £: Austria 37, Belgium 81.25, France 8.92, Italy 1,525, Greece 75.50, Spain 119.75, Switzerland 5.37, U.S. 2.0375. Source: Thomas Cook.

Fare comment

THE WORLD'S airlines are trying to tighten up on anomalies in ticket prices the world over, but meanwhile there are still manoevres which can save the business traveller substantial amounts, quite legally. The basic rule for the British businessman is that if you are tempted to buy an airline ticket abroad (perhaps you suddenly need to get from Frankfurt to Rio), don't. It is often much less expensive to 'phone your office in London, get them to buy the ticket and send it to you. The savings vary, but at some times this year the difference between say the Swiss Franc and the Pound has meant that sterling buyers have paid one-third less than the Franc customer. On a flight to Hong Kong that's quite a saving. Booking in London and paying abroad does not help. You will still pay in local currency. The ticket must be physically written in London. The airlines hope to have a discount/surcharge system working which will even out the differences eventually. Meanwhile think twice before you go to the counter in Geneva clutching your credit card to buy a ticket. A telephone call to London could save you a week's salary.

Arthur Sandles

Gardening

Reducing winter losses

BY A. G. L. HELLYER

THE APPEARANCE of grey mould on several plants of coleus is a reminder that winter losses are not simply due to frost. As soon as the temperature drops below about 13C (55F) and the air becomes really moist, as it has been these last few weeks, various fungi flourish, including Botrytis cinerea which causes grey mould.

There are also fungi which attack tubers in store, including the dry rot which can work havoc among potatoes and a whole series of fungi which can attack the tubers of dahlias, begonias, gloxinias etc. even when they are completely out of the soil and so apparently removed from any source of infection.

Too little heat

So moulds of various kinds in inadequately heated greenhouses, conservatories etc. (and that will be the condition of many such structures this winter) and storage rots in bulbs, corms and tubers can cause a lot of damage and a real loss of money if plants have to be replaced expensively in the spring. It is worth taking a little trouble to see that it does not happen or, if that is impossible, at least that losses are cut to a minimum.

Grey mould has always been a difficult disease to control, seemingly insensitive to most fungicides, though thiram can have some effect in checking it. Traditionally flowers of sulphur (usually sold for garden use as green sulphur, which is simply the yellow powder coloured green to make it less unsightly on leaves and stems) has been used and it has the merit of being applied dry and so not adding to the excessive moisture which helps the disease to flourish.

I would still pin my faith on one or other of these well tried preventatives, but from news that has just reached me about recent experiments in the control of winter decay in dahlia tubers I am wondering if benomyl might not also be worth a trial.

According to these experiments dahlia tubers soaked in a weak solution of benomyl showed 100 per cent. greater resistance to winter storage troubles than tubers dusted with flowers of sulphur. Put in another way, the number of tubers that produced new shoots in the spring was 80 per cent. of the whole when the tubers had been pre-treated with benomyl, 40 per cent. when dusted with flowers of sulphur and 33 per cent. when stored without any treatment.

To lose two-thirds of one's stored dahlias could be disastrous and I must admit that I have never lost anything like that proportion from storage rots alone, so I assume that the experimental conditions must have been poor, but presumably they were the same for all stocks, treated and untreated.

Well soaked

The benomyl used was the branded formulation, Benlate, much favoured by rose growers in recent years for the control of mildew and black spot on roses. This was mixed with water at the rate recommended for spraying roses and the dahlia tubers, after being completely cleaned of soil, were thoroughly soaked in the solution and then allowed to dry before being boxed and stored in the normal way.

Though the experiment was carried out only on dahlias I can see no obvious reason why the same treatment should not be applied to begonias and gloxinias before the tubers are stored for the winter, or for that matter to gladioli. It would also seem sensible to try spraying benomyl solution on to pelargonium, coleus and other plants, particularly sensitive to winter rots of one kind and another. I certainly propose to try this in my own greenhouse which will receive the absolute minimum of heating required to keep the plants in it alive.

Outdoors winter losses are often due to the peculiar mixture of frost and rain which is such an unpleasant characteristic of British winters. That is one reason why I am always a little chary about recommendations that plants should be covered with dry litter. It might be all right if only it would remain dry but in actuality it is always a soggy mess after a few weeks, lying heavily on the plants and encouraging the decay it is meant to prevent.

Coarse grade sphagnum peat is as good a material as any for covering the roots of fuchsias or for mounding over crinums and amaryllis, for it is a fluffy material which usually allows some circulation of air. Leaves, dry straw and bracken are much more likely to cause trouble and if supported on low "tents" of wire or plastic netting, as is often advised, may simply become convenient nesting places for mice.

I find the old fashioned glass cloches as good as anything because they allow some circulation of air and also free passage of light to help keep the soil dry. And really it is dryness more than anything else that is the essential thing to aim for with most slightly tender plants.

With larger plants such as shrubs and wall climbers it is easier to fix screens that will give sufficient protection without smothering growth. I keep all large fertiliser and peat bags especially for this purpose, slitting them open top and bottom so that they form large sleeves that can be slipped over plants.

Jute sacks

Actually the old-fashioned jute sacks are even better because they are just that little bit porous and yet exclude cold more efficiently, but they are much more difficult to acquire nowadays. A new plastic net named Rokalene is excellent and is sufficiently stiff to hold itself up with very little extra support. I notice that it is being used quite a lot in nurseries to make screens where formerly high but thin hedges of beech or hornbeam would have been grown.

Saleroom

English pictures disappoint

By Antony Thorncroft

CHRISTIE'S yesterday held its big pre-Christmas sale of English pictures, with disappointing results. This was not really surprising since few overseas buyers are in the market for our artists, and there does not seem to be the confidence among British dealers and collectors to bid high prices.

As a result many of the most important pictures failed to sell, in particular a Canaletto view of the Thames, a Ben Marshall of the 1827 Derby winer Mameluke, and "Distraining for rent," by Sir David Wilkie.

A George Romney portrait of Mrs. Roger Smith, wife of the Governor of Charleston, painted in 1786 for £104 18s., was bought by the organisation, Historic Charleston for £17,850, as against the £22,000-£26,000 pre-sale estimate.

Another Romney, of Miss Hobart, was bought by Douglas, a private buyer, for £6,300 (forecast £8,000-£10,000). Both paintings came from the collection of the Earl of Swinton, who sold thirteen pictures for £50,336.

There were works that did well. An extensive view of the battle of Blenheim by John Wooton, which was originally painted for the Duke of Marlborough, sold to Leggat, on behalf of a private collector, for £10,500, as against a £3,000-£4,000 estimate.

For museum

There was strong underbidding from the National Portrait Gallery and the National Army Museum and after the auction the successful buyer announced that he was lending the picture to the National Army Museum.

The highest price, in a sale which totalled £333,301, was the £18,900 from a private collector for a large painting by William and Henry Barraud of the Wiltshire Great Coursing Meeting of March 1847. Its estimate was £20,000-£22,000. It had been painted for Mr. Richard Bagge, whose dog, "Twilight," won the event and it remained in the family until yesterday.

Other reasonable prices were the £12,600, within forecast, from Hartnoll and Eyre for the procession of an Indian bridegroom by Robert Home, a work of 1792 sent for sale by the Royal Geographical Society; the £10,500, above forecast, for a view of the Thames by Samuel Scott in the late 1740's; and the £4,410 from Agnew for a grey hunter in a stable by John Frederick Herring.

An undisclosed number of paintings were bought in, and all prices are before the addition of the 10 per cent. buyers premium.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM. (01-836 3161) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tonight & Tue 7.30 The Italian Girl in Algiers: Wed. & Fri. 7.30 The Merry Widow: Thur. 7.30 The Makropulos Case.

THEATRES

GARRICK. 836 4601. Evenings 8.15. Mat Wed. 3.0. Sat. 6.0 and 8.40. RICHARD BRIERS "ABSENT FRIENDS" "ALAN AYCKBOURN'S FINEST. FUNNIEST PLAY." H. Hobson, S. Times.

REGENT. 323 2707 Evenings 8.30. Fri. and Sat. 7.00 and 9.15. 2nd YEAR OF SENSATIONAL STAGE SHOW OF THE 70s LET MY PEOPLE COME AN ADULT MUSICAL

CINEMAS

ODEON HAYMARKET. (930 2738-2771) SHAMPOO (X). Sep. perfs. Wk. 1.15 (not Sun.), 4.45, 8.15. Shampoo at 1.55 (not Sun.), 5.30, 8.55. Late show Fri & Sat. 11.45. All seats may be booked.

PLAZA 2. Regent St. 839 6494. Box Office open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (not Sun.). GONE WITH THE WIND (A) in 70mm. Progs. Sep. Perfs. Daily 2.15, 6.50. Late Show Sat. 11.15 p.m. All seats bookable.

PRINCE CHARLES. Leic. Sq. 437 8181. 2nd Great Year. EMMANUELLE (X). Sep. Perfs. Dly. (inc. Sun.) 2.45, 6.15, 9.00. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11.45. Seats Bkble.

RITZ. Leicester Sq. 437 1234. BUG (X). Progs. daily 2.15, 4.25, 6.35, 8.45. Late Show Fri. and Sat. 11.30 p.m.

SCENE 1. Leic. Sq. (Wardour St) 439 4470. Cont. Perfs. Dly. from 12.30. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11.45. Ken Russell's LISZTOMANIA (X). Progs. 12.30, 2.20, 4.45, 7.05, 9.25. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11.45.

SCENE 2. Leic. Sq. (Wardour St) 439 4470. Cont. Perfs. Dly. from 12.30. Late Show Fri. and Sat. 12.05. YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (AA). Progs. 12.30, 2.45, 5.05, 7.25, 9.45. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 12.05.

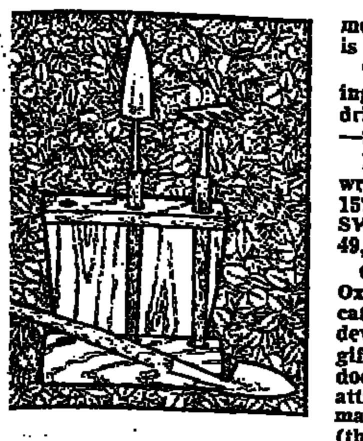
SCENE 3. Leic. Sq. (Wardour St) 439 4470. THE TOWERING INFERNO (A). Sep. perfs. Dly. 2.00, 5.20, 8.40. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11.45. Seats Bkble—All Perfs.

SCENE 4. Leic. Sq. (Wardour St) 439 4470. 2nd YEAR THE EXORCIST (X). Directed by William Friedkin. Sep. Perfs. Dly. 12.30, 3.00, 6.15, 9.00. Late Show Fri. and Sat. 11.30. Box Office Open Dly. 10-8. Sun. 12-8. Seats Bkble—All Perfs.

WARNER WEST END. Leicester Square. Tel. 439 0791.
1: Telly Savalas, James Mason, Robert Culp INSIDE OUT (A). Sep. Progs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30.
2: A Ken Russell Film Starring Roger Daltrey LISZTOMANIA (X). Cont. Progs. Wk. 1.20, 3.40, 6.00, 8.25. Sun. 3.10, 5.50, 8.15. Late Show Fri. & Sat. 11.00.
3: Dirk Bogarde, Ava Gardner PERMISSION TO KILL (AA). Sep. Progs. 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Late show Sat. 11.30. All seats may be booked.
4: FIVE FINGERS OF DEATH (X). Cont. progs. 2.40, 4.35, 6.30, 8.30. Late show Sat. 11.00.

How to spend it by Lucia van der Post

Double Gift



Many of the charitable [organ]isations issue catalogues at [thi]s time of year so that those [wh]o are buying presents can [ma]ke a double gift—one to the [pe]rson they originally had in [mi]nd and one to the charitable [or]ganisation to which all profits [fro]m the mail order operation [ac]crue. It's undoubtedly a [spl]endid idea but not many of [the]se catalogues are very [int]eresting or inspiring sources [of] presents.

[S]ave the Children have a gift [cat]alogue which is one of the [bes]t. The selection of gift items [isn]'t large but it is more varied [tha]n most and for those who are [fee]ling paricularly hard-up this [Chr]istmas many of the presents [are] exceedingly inexpensive.

[I] liked particularly this indoor [gar]den tool set which has a wood [stan]d and three small tools measuring up to 8½ inches. It is 95p.

There is also a pack for growing flowers which can then be dried to form everlasting flowers—this is £1.35.

For a copy of the catalogue write to Save the Children, 157 Clapham Road, London SW9. They also run a shop at 49, Dorset Street, London W1.

Oxfam, 274, Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ has two catalogues this year—one is devoted to Christmas cards and gifts and isn't very large but does feature some particularly attractive cut-out dolls from many countries of the world (these are only 60p each) as well as the inevitable, though very attractive, tea-towels. There are also diaries, packs of cards, puzzles and a selection of roses and bulbs.

There is a second catalogue which specialises in featuring things made by the indigenous populations of the areas they try to help. They believe that buying something from the people, that is encouraging their own talents and industries, is a better method of help than simple charity. Many of the things it wouldn't be hard to want to buy—there are attractive Namdha rugs at £19 each, Pacific floor mats at £1.25, welcome doormats from £1.85, hanging baskets from £2.50, salad bowls from £3.35, puzzles and toys.

Write to the Banbury Road address for the catalogues which are free.

Sewing Store

This sweet little basket has [bee]n equipped to take everything [a] woman who sews could need. [Th]ere's a handle to make it easy [to] carry and the edge is lined [wit]h gussets into which the [nee]dles, cottons, wools, scissors [and] so on can be kept. Lined [wit]h Provençal print fabric it [cos]ts £5.90 (65p p+p) from Eva [Ja]nser, 281 Finchley Road, [Lo]ndon NW3.

Patch your Bag

[N]ot particularly cheap, but at [a lo]t cheaper than most ready-[mad]e bags, is this collection of [pie]ces, and plywood handles which you make into your own bag. The handles have to be painted or varnished but are of wood. There's calico lining and the cotton pieces are very pretty small floral prints. When finished the bag will measure 19 inches by 11 inches. The bag kit can be bought from The Leisurecrafts Centre, 2-10 Jordan Place, London SW6, or from Living Art, 35, Kenway Road, London SW5, or direct by mail from Suzibags, 4, Miles Buildings, Bath, BA1 2QS. Price £3.30.

● Come Christmas-time, legend has it, bemused husbands are liable to be found wandering in a distracted way round the lingerie departments of the big stores buying 32in. nightdresses to fit 52in. wives, buying slinky purple satin when what she really hankers after is soft pale pink.

I don't believe most husbands are quite as out-of-touch as all that and any wife worth her salt let's it be known over the weeks exactly what she's got her eye on. However, this week's page is for those men who are married to more reticent, less self-seeking wives, just the sort who deserve something lovely like the beautiful lingerie that is currently *filling* our shops.

As you can see from the illustrations, there is nothing skimped or peasant-like or economy-minded about the lingerie at the moment. If you did not read the papers or look at your bank statement you might not know there was a depression on. Quite why we are all busy rejecting the blue jean syndrome just now when it makes most sense, would take a singularly clever psychiatrist to discover. Whatever the reason, it's sophisticated, slinky, languorous night-wear for thoroughly grown-up women—baby dolls will have to make their own or do without.

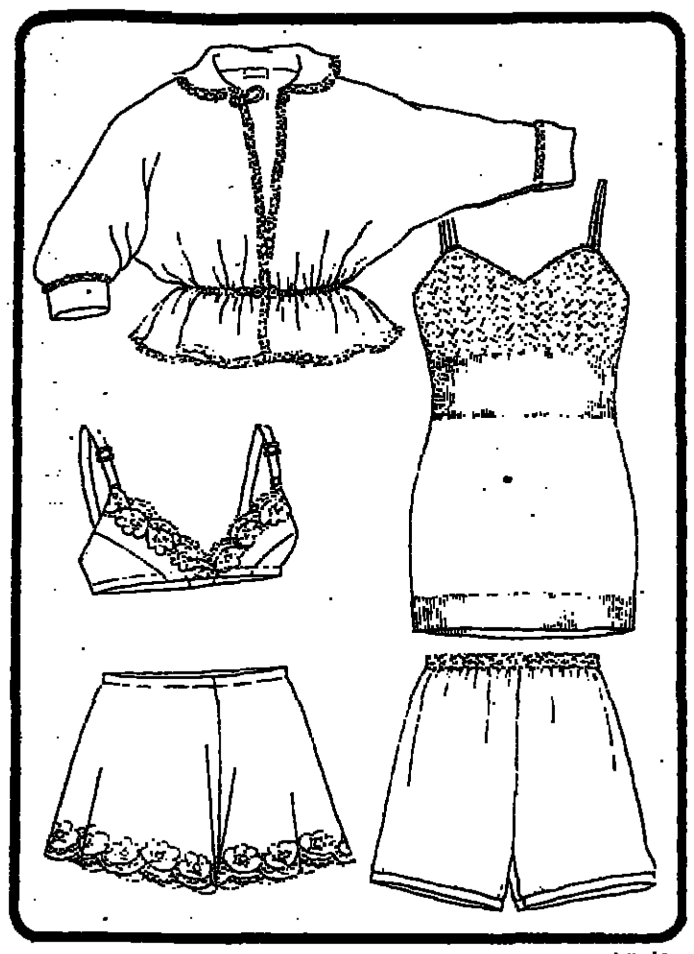
For husbands who are not all that sure of their wife's size it is best to go for things like nightdresses, negligées and what are now called house-coats or cover-ups. All these are usually sold as small, medium or large and even the most myopic of men must be able to get that bit right.

Janet Reger, in my view, does some of the sleekest, most film-starrish lingerie in the world and any one of her negligées would be an admirable choice for any not-too-hard-up husband. Janet Reger works mainly in washable satin which gives her clothes a wonderfully smooth feel to the skin and a matchlessly luxurious look. The negligée, above left, glories in the name of "Sonia," costs £55 and comes in white, cream, peach or black (for any man wondering which colour to go for, cream is, I think, much the "richest" looking colour).

Besides the negligée, Janet Reger does a whole range of underwear, including some delicious cami-knickers, nightdresses, petticoats and so on, all of which can be seen at her new shop at 2, Beauchamp Place, London, S.W.3. For those who want to order the negligée by mail Janet Reger will send it post and package free.

Silk has always been a luxury fabric, associated with everything rich and lovely. Now, however, that the price of artificial fibres has risen so dramatically it often isn't quite as expensive in comparison to everything else as it used to be. A present in pure silk, no matter how small, whether a scarf, a pair of French knickers or a full-length night-dress, does have an air of something special about it.

Silk... Satin... Cotton...



Suzuko

Harvey Nichols at the moment have a sensational group of silk underwear and nightwear designed by a whole group of British designers exclusively for them. Whether it's nightdresses, loungers, shawls, cami-knickers, pyjamas or camisoles, almost all of them feel and look special—and given that they undoubtedly need more care over washing and ironing than most other fabrics, it's essential that they do.

The vest and briefs sketched above may look a little dull in the drawings but when you actually feel the fabrics you realise that a utilitarian article like a vest can be transformed by the fabric into a luxury garment. For those who can not afford a full-length nightdress the pure silk briefs by Smedley cost £8.60 a pair, while the vest (and what more luxiurious and more warming version of the garment could you find?) is also £8.60. They come in white or pink, must be washed by hand and ironed with a cool iron. In sizes 12 to 18. They are available from Harvey Nichols of Knightsbridge, Harrods of Knightsbridge, The White House, 51, New Bond Street, London, W.1, Dickens and Jones, Regent Street, London, W.1.

At the top of our collection of drawings is a Sleep-Jacket ("not a bed-jacket," says Richard Hamnett who designed it—"*that* has overtones of the 1950s") from Tuttabankem. I think it would make a marvellous present for almost any woman but particularly for those who travel a lot (useful to put on when your breakfast is brought up in the mornings) or for anybody going into hospital.

The Sleep-Jacket is made in sizes 8 to 14, comes in blue, pink, white, black or navy and in pure silk costs £27.50 from Bradley's of Knightsbridge, London, W.1.

Tuttabankem also make it in polyester (which feels almost exactly like satin but is tougher and after being washed needs very little ironing) for about £14. In polyester it's available from Night Owls, 78, Fulham Road, S.W.3, Elizabeth Arden, 29, New Bond Street, London, W.1, Nightingales of 98, Golders Green Road, London, N.W.6, and Night Owl, 11, Meer Street, Stratford-upon-Avon.

This is the first collection of lingerie that Tuttabankem has done and it is full of lovely things. Look out for the name at Harvey Nichols where their silk collection is to be seen and their polyester collection is available more widely.

Less in the luxury class but none the less very pretty is the range of underwear by Abecita of Sweden. It's made from a new material called Qiana which has a silk-like look to it but can be machine-washed. This particular set of underwear comes in white, black or oyster and the bra sells for £4.25. (A 32—36 or B and C 32—38), the briefs for £3.95 (small, medium or large).

Abecita underwear can be found in a large selection of shops, including Bourne and Hollingsworth, Harvey Nichols, Rackhams of Birmingham, Fenwicks of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and D. H. Evans.

On the right are photographs of the sort of all-purpose garment that almost any woman could wear about the house for almost any occasion.

Night Owls, of 78, Fulham Road, London, S.W.3, for whom the garments were designed haven't got a word for them that really sums up their usefulness—I'd wear them about the house, in the morning, in the evening, out to dinner, on holiday, almost anywhere in the evening except for the most formal events.

On the right is Snapdragon which was designed specially for Night Owls. Made in Liberty Print Cotton in sizes small, medium and large, there is a matching quilted jacket for extra warmth and the two together cost £51.85.

On the left is another Liberty Print cotton this time designed by Julia Smith. The bodice is quilted and there are contrasting borders round the sleeves and hem. Also in sizes small, medium and large, it costs £43.20.

Night Owls will send by post for 75p p and p.

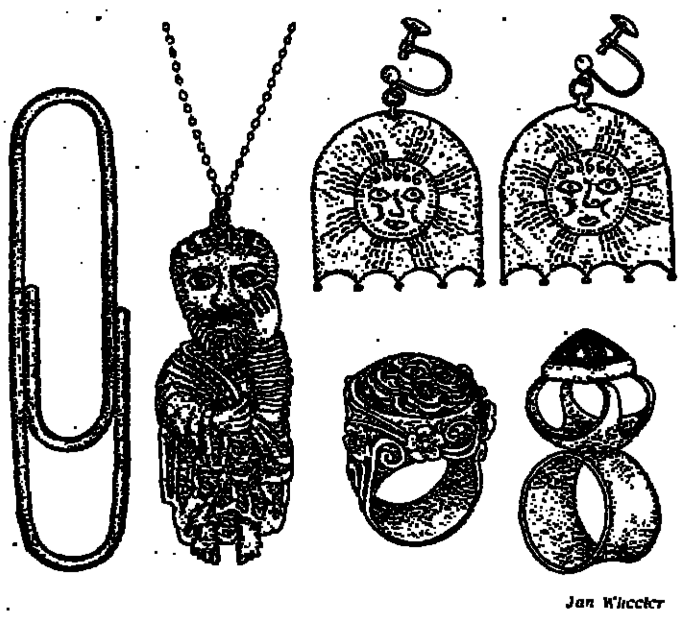
from Him to Her

● Jewellery is another of those hitherto exceedingly expensive and rarified items that now seems so much less expensive in comparison to everything else. Our young jewellery designers are among the best in the world, producing jewellery that manages to be both modern yet infinitely desirable. The other great advantage of jewellery, of course, is that, except for rings, you don't really need to worry about size.

Hamish Aikman, is a young self-taught jeweller who usually works in silver and 14 or 18 carat gold and likes using semi-precious stones and Baroque pearls. He has already had several exhibitions of his work and some readers may remember his beautiful collection of tiny, precious boxes for the Casson Gallery of 73, Marylebone High Street, London, W.1 last Christmas.

His work is spread out over a wide selection of galleries, including the Casson Gallery, the Craft Gallery of 178, Kensington Church Street, London, W.8; Friars Gallery, 37, High Street, Canterbury; Primavera, 10, Kings Parade, Cambridge; Salix, 57, Thames Street, Windsor. Anybody who wants to contact him should write to Punkaharju, White Stone, Hereford.

In the drawing on the right is a small selection of some of his current work. The large silver paper clip (8½ cms. or 3½ inches long) is hallmarked and costs £15 in silver, £45 in 14 carat gold, £60 in 18 carat gold. It can be bought direct from Hamish Aikman at the address above, 45p p+p. Orders take up to four weeks.



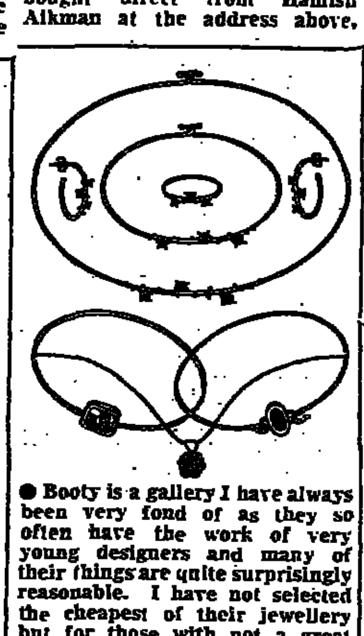
Jan Wheeler

The cast silver saint is based on a carving on a 15th century French cathedral and is designed to be worn as a pendant, £35.

The ear-rings with the sun faces are in silver with gold beads and cost £11 the pair.

The ring on the left is of malachite set in oxidised silver and has a twisted vine decoration round the side and gold beads and tiny silver flowers set around the stone. £70.

The ring on the right is made of silver with a citrine raised up on a cut away cup shape to throw as much light as possible back through the stone. £55.



● Booty is a gallery I have always been very fond of as they so often have the work of very young designers and many of their things are quite surprisingly reasonable. I have not selected the cheapest of their jewellery but for those with not a great deal to spend Booty is a good place to find interesting work at not excessive prices.

There are two Booty shops—at 9a, New Bond Street, London, W.1 and at 14, Holborn, London, E.C.1.

At the top of the drawing is a collection of 18-carat gold jewellery designed by Jane Allen, one of the more famous of our designers. This particular series is distinguished by its air of delicacy—the fine gold is embellished with small diamonds and the whole set consists of a ring (£150), a bracelet (£200), a necklace (£250), and ear-rings (£225 the pair).

Below is an 18-carat gold bracelet with a square inset of four diamonds. Designed by Jens Torp, the bracelet is exceedingly elegant and costs £163.

In the centre is a fine 18-carat gold chain on which hangs the most exquisite collection of seven diamonds. By Graff, it is £200.

On the right is another of the very elegant, slim bracelets in 18-carat gold and with a tortoise-shell inset piece. By Grivau of France, it is £38.

CHESS BY LEONARD BARDEN

DECEMBER is always an active month in the chess calendar. This year three major events will, in different ways, be pointers to Britain's current standing as a rising chess nation with a crop of talented young players.

The England v. Holland European team championship match on December 20-21 promises to be close; good wins by 12½-3½ against France at Luton and by 13-3 over Wales at Birmingham may well give England a point or two lead at the start of the decider for the championship finals.

Next, *the annual Evening* Standard congress takes place in London over two week-ends, December 12-14 and 19-21. For three years running this has been the world's largest congress with over 1,000 entrants each time. As usual, there are tournaments for players of any—or no—strength, ranging from the National Bank of Dubai Open with a £700 first prize to the London Beginners Championship with £100 for the winner.

If you have never played competitive or congress chess before, this is a good event in which to make a start, with one warning proviso.

The three-day tournaments where games begin on Saturdays at 9.30 a.m. and end at 10.30 at night are a real trial of stamina: if you are new to congresses and not in the pinkest of youthful health, better enter one of the two-day *tournaments* (which include the Beginners Championship) where a more civilised schedule means that evening games are over by 8.30 at the latest. Congress brochures are available from S. Reuben, 11 Haversham Close, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Finally, Hastings enters its 51st year as a congress on December 29. The preservation of the world's longest running chess show is due primarily to the support and personal interest of Paul Zetter of Zetter's International Pools who have provided £5,000 backing. Like the Moscow finals if we get there, Hastings offers the chance of the major break-through which our young players seek.

Britain's six players Keene, Hartston, Miles, Stean, Nunn and Bellin all have chances to qualify for international title norms. The great attraction of *Hastings is that you can watch* the grandmaster games on demonstration boards and play in a lesser event yourself. Write for details to L. Glyde, Hastings Chess Club, 2 Cornwallis Terrace, Hastings, Sussex.

Korchnoi is sure to be the Hastings favourite. One of the most accomplished and positive players of the day, he lost only by a single game to Karpov in what proved a de facto world title match when Bobby Fischer dropped out. This week's game is a polished Korchnoi win from the Alekhine Memorial.

White: V. Korchnoi (Soviet Union). Black: S Garcia (Cuba). Opening: Reti (Moscow 1975).

The opening moves were 1 N-KB3, N-KB3; 2 P-B4, P-B4; 3 N-B3, P-K3; 4 P-KN3, P-QN3; 5 B-N2, B-N2; 6 O-O, P-QR3?

By grandmaster standards this is, if not a losing move, at any rate one which condemns Black to difficult passive defence. Besides wasting time, Black weakens his own QNP.

7 P-N3, P-Q3; 8 P-Q4, PxP; 9 QxP, QN-Q2; 10 B-N2, B-K2; 11 KR-Q1, O-O; 12 N-K1, Q-N1; 13 P-K4, R-B1; 14 Q-K3, R-R2; 15 N-B3, N-N5; 16 Q-K2, KN-K4; 17 N-K1!

Classical strategy: Korchnoi avoids piece exchanges (which would free Black's cramped game) and prepares a K-side pawn advance (while Black struggles to unravel his congealed pieces on the other side of the board).

17 . . . B-R1; 18 R-Q2, N-B4; 19 N-B2, N-B3; 20 P-B4, N-Q2; 21 N-K3, N-B3; 22 P-KN4, N-K1; 23 P-N5, QR-B2; 24 P-KR4, P-N4; 25 P-KB5!

The KB file will be a motorway into the heart of Black's position.

25 . . . NPxP; 26 PxKP, PxKP; 27 B-KR3, N-Q1; 28 NxP, R-B4; 29 R-KB1, P-N3; 30 Q-B2, N-KN2; 31 N-Q5! BxN.

31 . . . PxN fails to 32 Q-Q4.

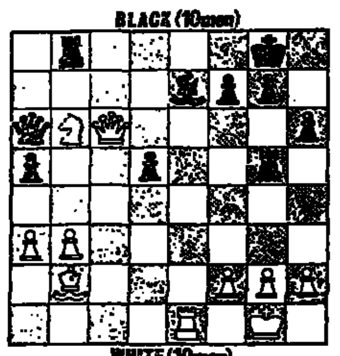
32 PxB, P-K4; 33 BxR, QxB; 34 NxKP! N-B4.

A nice touch; Black has to decline the sacrifice of each knight in turn. If 34 . . . PxN; 35 P-Q6, BxP; 36 RxB, N-B4; 37 RxN ch wins.

35 N-N4, N-R2; 36 Q-K2, NxRP; 37 QxB, QxN ch; 38 K-R2, Resigns.

POSITION No. 89

BLACK (10 men)

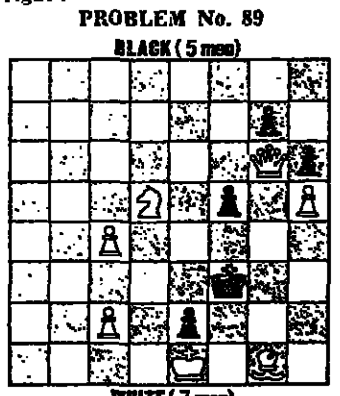


WHITE (10 men)

A might-have-been from Spassky v. Petrosian, world title match 1969. Petrosian could have reached this position, but rejected the chance because he calculated it as favourable to Spassky (White, to move). What did Petrosian fear, and was he right?

PROBLEM No. 89

BLACK (5 men)



WHITE (7 men)

White mates in three moves, against any defence (by Sam Loyd, Cleveland Leader 1876).

Solutions Page 4

COINS BY JAMES MACKAY

THE GOLD and silver which the early Spanish colonists of Central America shipped back to Europe brought untold wealth to their mother country and upset the economic balance of the Old World.

But there was a third metal, even more precious than gold and silver, which baffled metallurgists for more than two centuries. This brilliant white metal was found in river beds, but its hardness and density marked it out as far superior to silver. Its very high melting point, however, made it virtually unworkable and for many years it remained no more than a curiosity, generally known by its Spanish name, platina del Pinto (literally the "shining substance from the river-bed").

The discovery of much larger deposits of platinum in Peru about 1747 prompted European scientists to unravel its mysteries. Five years later Scheffer published a paper on platinum before the Stockholm Academy and in 1758 Macquer and Baume succeeded in melting a quantity of the metal at a temperature of 1,750 deg C. Thereafter it was treated largely with indifference, until the late-19th century when its extreme hardness and high fusibility acquired valuable industrial applications.

Its brilliant lustre and great density akin to gold brought it to the notice of coiners and as early as 1763 the Spanish mint in Colombia produced a trial *piece in platinum, using the dies* of the 8-escudo gold coin. The Colombian Mint persevered with its experiments until 1819 and produced a number of patterns in platinum, though none was actually struck for general circulation. Simultaneously platinum coins were struck experimentally in the Spanish mints in Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

Intermittently throughout the 19th century Spain itself experi*mented with platinum coins,* producing a number of handsome pieces in the size of the silver 5-peseta coins. These experiments continued until 1904. It is believed that the Spanish authorities even considered substituting platinum for gold, but the discovery of platinum deposits in South Africa and Australia substantially lowered its price.

The most dramatic discovery of platinum occurred in the Urals in 1819. By 1825 *Russia* was producing the bulk of the world supply, and this proved embarrassing as little practical use could be found for it, beyond lining the priming pans of pistols. In 1826 a half rouble was struck in platinum as a trial piece, and several medals for the coronation of Tsar Nicholas I in the same year. The Tsar was impressed with the appearance of these pieces and authorised the *production of 3,* 6 and 12-rouble coins which appeared at various times between 1828 and 1845. Over-production of platinum in the 1840s resulted in a slump in the bullion value and mounting public antipathy for the coins which were demonetised after 1845.

Until recently, Russia was the only country to have struck platinum coins in commercial quantities. Elsewhere it continued to be the subject of continual experiment. Platinum proof strikes of several low value coins (5 and 10 centimes) were produced by the Paris Mint between 1890 and 1917. The Royal Mint struck a single penny in platinum in 1807 and a handful of the Bank of England 18-pence tokens of 1812 are known to exist in platinum. The most recent example from this country was the pattern crown for King Edward VIII struck unofficially in platinum in 1936.

Newfoundland had an experimental 2-dollar piece in platinum in 1865 and several examples of American half-dollars, dated 1814, are thought to have been *struck experimentally about 1940.* In 1883-4 the San Francisco Mint struck platinum patterns of the Hawaiian eighth, quarter and half-dollar coins.

At various times coins have been struck in platinum by Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, Austria, Hungary, Italy and Portugal. In most cases these exist only as unique pieces about which remarkably little is known. The platinum proofs and patterns produced by Bavaria, Prussia, Saxony and latterly the Weimar Republic are better known, but all are of the utmost rarity.

Rather more plentiful are examples of 19th century gold coins counterfeited in platinum and then gilded to resemble the genuine article. These date from the period when platinum was worth very much less than gold, though nowadays such pieces are very highly prized for their numismatic interest as well as their greatly enhanced intrinsic value. British sovereigns, American eagles and French napoleons are the coins most commonly found in platinum.

Recent legislation in Britain curtailing gold coins may stimulate fresh interest in platinum *as a numismatic metal. First* off the mark is the Isle of Man which has commissioned from the Pobjoy Mint 600 sets of the current series of 6 coins as platinum proofs, available from the Mint, Sutton, Surrey at £587.50 per set.

* * *

A three-page FT Survey of coins, stamps and medals appears on pages 11, 12 and 13.

Property and housing

Search and search again

BY JOE RENNISON

APART FROM the inevitable rise in estate agents' fees discussed last week, there are plenty of other items to be taken into account all of which are making house purchase or selling a gradually more costly *business. In the past such rises* in peripheral costs could have been dismissed since they could have been absorbed by gradually increasing incomes. But in a time of stagnant incomes, such rises begin to bite and could tip the balance between going ahead or drawing back from buying or selling.

For those who do not wish to use an agent but want to advertise and sell the house themselves, the price is rising. Newspapers and periodicals are having a fight to remain profitable like much of the rest of industry. Advertising rates have risen substantially over the last year and they may have to rise again. Even when an agent is used, this cost will increase. Practice varies in different parts of the country but for the most part a separate account is kept of advertising that is done and this is charged additionally to the customer.

Insurance premiums of all kinds are gradually rising. It is natural that a house owner should want to protect his house from fire and from the theft or destruction of part of the contents. What many do not take sufficient care about is whether they will be able to *replace their house in the* event of total destruction. It is essential that the premium should cover the full replacement cost of the building.

Cost index

The cost of replacing almost any house to-day would certainly be greater than the market value of the house that *had been destroyed. Not all* house owners are covered to this extent. It is recommended that a policy to this effect should be linked to the building cost index with regular revisions. The building cost index has shot up in the last couple of years and premiums must rise accordingly.

Having completed a sale or purchase, the process of moving to the new abode can now be costly. One removals contractor has estimated that the cost of taking 1,000 cubic feet of household goods on an average inland journey has risen from £15.50 in 1965 to £69 in midsummer of this year. It is argued that the price of removals has reduced in proportion to the price of the average house. But that is little comfort. The price is still going up as it is likely to do considering that the removals contractors are heavy users of oil and the industry remains basically labour intensive.

There are two other costs which directly affect the potential buyer. The first is not going up as far as we know and the other must keep on rising.

The first is stamp duty. This affects only the buyers of middle and upper priced properties since the duty does not start until £15,000 or more is paid for a house. It is a curious tax which would not seem to have much validity in to-day's world. It is quite simply a revenue raiser without any other good purpose. To-day, the amount of revenue raised is peanuts for the Exchequer but *not for the buyer. While it is* only £82 for a house costing £16,000 it rises to £600 for a house costing £30,000.

I have never understood why someone buying a house should be subject to this kind of penal taxation. I suppose it is simply a matter that it has been there a long time and political expediency ensures that it cannot be removed entirely. But if the Government is as anxious as it says to see movement in the upper reaches of the market then this is one obstacle that could be removed.

The remaining cost is that of legal fees. We can all complain with justification of the law's delay and the greater delay the greater the cost. Lawyers have a reputation of making work rather than reducing it. They work in just the opposite fashion to estate agents. The longer they can spin out a job the more they can earn, whereas an agent wants a quick turnover to enhance his profits.

Correctly conveyed

One of their activities recently under examination is that of making the necessary searches in order to make sure that a property is correctly conveyed or transferred to another person after the seller has sold. Sir Stanley Morton, chairman of the Abbey National Building Society, drew attention to this process in a recent speech.

He said that "an examination of the titles he'd by my own society, whether registered or unregistered, shows that the majority have been the subject of several full-scale investigations within a comparatively short space of time. Indeed, during the house purchase boom years of 1971-73 we found that some two-thirds of the total number of titles changed hands . . . it is puzzling for the layman to understand why it is necessary for several investigations of the same title to take place."

This is another of the items on the purchaser's bill which is gradually increasing in cost since solicitors along with everyone else are suffering from higher staff bills, overheads, etc. So it does seem strange that some of this duplication cannot be eliminated.

The trouble is that solicitors have to be very careful. It is essential to renew at least part of the searches made even if they were made fairly recently. Even on registered land complications could occur even a few days after the previous sale. But for the most part it is unlikely. And in any case the State guarantees the title of land that has been registered.

Sir Stanley would like to see solicitors issue a formal guarantee of title to a purchaser for, say, 20 years. This seems quite feasible but some solicitors argue that this is a trap some of their profession could easily fall into and be held responsible for. They could be tempted into taking the word of the solicitor who had the same work six months ously and sign a guarante

The Law Society soug years ago to introduce a certificate book into the s and this would have cut costs. But they were ask the Government of the d abandon the scheme since intended to extend the registration programme thr out the country. This has become bogged down administrative delay and l money.

Land charges

There are further com tions which make sea imperative and keep the up. All charges against should be registered but not be: it is as well to Local authorities can c their minds overnight plans for a neighbourho that particular part of puzzle must always investigated.

A title could be out of in some respects a coup days after it has established if a wife is the right of tenure or leave or easement is s away.

There seems to be little that the system could be s fied. But until then purchaser must go throug hoop and at the same tim price of doing so is rising.

Ottenham Court is in Polegate, Sussex, on the edge of the South Downs. The house was originally part of Ottenham Abbey and a small chapel dating from the 14th century remains an integral part of the property. It is designated as of architectural and historical interest. Set in 10 acres it contain 4 reception rooms and 5 bedroom. There are also two barns and loose boxes and there is the oppo tunity to buy an extra 4 acre fiel Price about £65,000; agents Savill

Busy but cool

TWO SURVEYS of the housing market published in the last week show how erratically the market is moving and yet still within confined limits. There is little prospect of "lift off" and, if anything, there is likely to be some cooling in those parts of the market that have shown the signs of greater activity.

Figures produced by the Department of the Environment in association with the Building Societies Association show what could be a levelling off in the price rise for new houses.

Based on mortgage advances, it shows that there was an increase in the third quarter of this year of 3 per cent. compared with increases of 4.5 per cent. and 3 per cent. in the *previous two quarters. It would* seem to suggest that the expected and required increase in new home prices is losing momentum. This could be very disturbing news indeed. If it suggests that the builders are losing confidence, then we can only be storing up trouble for the future. They will certainly lose confidence if new house prices do not increase at a far greater rate than they are at the moment.

For the housing scene as a whole, the survey points out, as many of us have been doing for a long time, that house prices are still historically high in relation to incomes so there will be no great surge in prices.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in its latest report, although it goes only up to the end of August, has much the same message. There has been much increased *activity yet still the number* of properties for sale increased. It was a happier period for agents than for a long time but should not breed complacency.

The RICS report points out that there are still problems for those properties priced over £20,000 but that there is some reason for optimism about actual sales being completed. But it is concerned that there may now be a slackening in demand for the very cheapest properties. Presumably the last round of wage increases is beginning to spend itself out in the face of continued inflation. The RICS thinks that "problems on the bottom rung of the housing ladder have, historically, always been a warning light for the whole of the market. In this instance if house prices begin to increase faster than restrained wages, then cash flow problems may *begin to discourage purchasers* in all sectors of the market."

Presumably prices will have to come down to match the buyer's pocket.

HOME NEWS

Sweden seeks interest in U.K. offshore oil

BY RAY DAFTER

WEDEN is anxious to take a ake in Britain's off-shore oil dustry, and is likely to bid for number of licences next year.

The Swedish Government is epared to provide financial arantees for the development North Sea projects. At the me time, it is willing to dis- iss the establishment of joint ntures downstream, in refining id petrochemicals for example, Swedish and U.K. companies.

Sweden's strong interest in the orth Sea emerged during this ek at meetings between Mr. nthony Wedgwood Benn, iergy Secretary, and Mr. Rune hansson, the Swedish Minister r Industry.

The new round of North Sea ence agreements next year is pected to have a truly inter- tional flavour as apart from traditional participants — itish, continental and U.S. npanies — Swedish and panese interests might be volved.

Mr. Benn said last week that pan was interested in partici- ing in the North Sea pro- imme. As with the Swedish interest, however, the Government would show no bias for or against these overseas interests.

A joint communiqué from Mr. Benn and Mr. Johansson stated that the two sides had agreed there were promising opportunities for co-operation in the North Sea between the two countries, and in particular between the British National Oil Corporation and the Swedish State-controlled oil interests.

Other Home News on Page 20

The Swedish Government is anxious to gain access to the North Sea and adjacent areas to strengthen the country's long-term security of supply. Some, if not all of the Swedish involvement, is likely to be taken up by the State-owned Svenska Petroleum.

The involvement of the Swedish oil industry in the North Sea might be seen by some in the offshore business as a further Government pressure point, particularly on those companies holding out against the principle of 51 per cent. State participation.

It is noteworthy that the communiqué said that the Swedish Government would urge Swedish interests to comply with the basic objectives of the U.K. Government, "in particular on State participation, refining of oil and the interests of the U.K. offshore supplies industry."

In eight days, Mr. Benn is due to fly to the U.S. where he will discuss the Government's energy and North Sea plans with American oil company executives.

● Britain should sell a third of its North Oil interests, Mr. Peter Walker, MP, said at Carlisle yesterday. The money would finance British industry just when it was needed.

Mr. Walker said that the world price of oil would not hold at the present price in view of the many oil finds now being made. It would therefore be good business for Britain to sell part of its oil now, and re-invest the money where it was needed.

Loans soon for TSB customers

By Michael Blanden

THE TRUSTEE Savings Banks expect to introduce personal loans and overdrafts for their customers next year after the introduction of the official Bill designed to clear the way for their development over the next ten years.

The banks yesterday welcomed the Bill, introduced by the Government in the House of Lords, as "an historic milestone" in the development of the TSB movement and of the banking sector as a whole. They said that "at long last" it opened the door to full banking services for their 12m. account holders.

The TSBs are to be provided with "long sought powers" to carry on "the business of banking." This will include personal credit business. While other services will not change radically in the short run, the new legislation involves substantial long term moves in relation to separating the banks from their official connections.

The Bill proposes the establishment of a Central Board which will supersede the TSB Association and take over certain powers at present exercised by the National Debt Commissioners and by the TSB Inspection Committee.

The banks' cheque accounts will continue to operate as in the past, and the ordinary department will continue its services unchanged for about three years before these accounts are converted into new demand savings accounts.

The banks have recently completed their reorganisation into 17 regional groups in order to meet the new conditions, and gained entry through the Central TSB to the London bank clearing operation.

Felixstowe port bid accepted

y John Wyles,
hipping Correspondent

·D OPPOSITION from a ority yesterday at an extra- nary general meeting in don failed to prevent a deci- shareholders' vote to accept £5.25m. takeover bid for ain's most successful ately-owned port, the Felix- e Dock and Railway Com- by the public-sector British nsport Docks Board.

ie verdict is a major coup the BTDB, which will add of the most profitable and st-growing ports to the 19 idy under its control.

ie prospect of handing the over to the public owner- brought angry protests small shareholders at yes- ay's thinly attended meet- In urging acceptance of the of 150p a share, the Board accused by a number of kers of betraying "the white of East Anglian capitalism" of delivering Felixstowe ind and gagged to the ur Government."

owever, these accusations among the 100 or so who illed to the meeting were aped by the weight of vot- Altogether 2,197,356 votes cast, representing 62.92 per of the issued share capital. outcome was an 87.95 per vote for accepting the offer 284,758 against.

many shareholders were arly mystified by the attitude Mr. Gorden Parker, the com- ny's 84-year-old chairman, who the man largely responsible r developing Felixstowe has ilt a reputation as a staunch fender of private enterprise. Mr. Parker stressed his regret the turn of events but main- ned that a transfer of owner- ip to the BTDB was the best y of ensuring the development the port and protecting its ployees. Felixstowe was suffer- g from "the very difficult cumstances" brought about by e threat of ports nationalisa- n and the Government's finite plans to extend the gistered dock labour scheme.

Race Board ruling against 'bussing'

BY MICHAEL DIXON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL AUTHORITIES are breaking thel aw when they send children to distant schools in order to prevent those near their homes from becoming "racial ghettos."

This ruling is announced by the Race Relations Board to-day, following a report on the London Borough of Ealing where immigrants' children, particularly Asians, have been "bussed" since 1963.

The report, by Professor Maurice Kogan of Brunel University, has led the Board to declare that the bussing of children on grounds of race contravenes Section 2 of the Race Relations Act.

This section says that it is unlawful for an education authority to discriminate on grounds of colour, race or ethnic or national origins in providing facilities and services to the public.

The ruling, however, does not outlaw bussing of immigrants' children to centres specialising in remedying educational needs, such as learning to speak English.

While the Board says it accepts that most of the 3,000 Ealing children concerned have such needs, Professor Kogan's inquiries have found that some children have been bussed even though their English is good.

The report accepts that some of the children affected have received better teaching as a result, but argues that this does not make up for the adverse effects—particularly on young primary-school pupils—of being forced into strange surroundings out of reach of their homes.

The ruling follows a dispute between Asian leaders, who wanted to stop the bussing, and members of the Ealing council, which has been Labour-controlled since 1973.

The council has accepted that the bussing should be gradually abandoned, and the Department of Education has provided an allowance to help the Ealing authority to provide more primary-school places in districts of high immigrant concentration, such as Southall.

The only other authority still bussing children on a significant scale—and so seriously affected by the new ruling—is Bradford. Other authorities are doing it, but only in a small way and to overcome temporary problems.

Western Trust given £23.5m. loan facility

WESTERN TRUST and Savings, the Plymouth-based money shop and personal finance group, is receiving £23.5m. of unsecured short- and medium-term loan facilities to support its development, writes Michael Blanden.

The new facilities had been arranged, the company says, to provide funds to enable it to rationalise existing banking arrangements on a longer-term basis better suited to providing a wide variety of personal loan, medium-term saving and deposit schemes.

The loan facilities are being provided by an international consortium of 18 banks, including a number of U.S. banks, and involve £16m. of two-year facilities, a £2.5m. ten-year loan and a £5m. standby credit.

Philadelphia National Bank, which owns 78 per cent. of Western Trust, is putting up a £2.5m. ten-year loan and the £5m. standby facility.

Mr. Mike Priestland, managing director of Western Trust, said the company has never considered approaching the City "lifeboat" committee in the past two years, since its problems had been not in attracting funds but in obtaining long enough funds to match the nature of its business.

The new facilities related, he said, to total lending of some £36m. and an existing capital and reserve of some £4m. The merchant bank Arbuthnot Latham holds the other 22 per cent. of the shares.

Western Trust now has 16 money centres.

Bowater considering Ralli deals report

BY STEWART FLEMING

LORD ERROLL, chairman of the Bowater Corporation, said yesterday that the company was reviewing its position following reports in the Sunday Times last week relating to share dealing activities of companies associated with two senior executives, Mr. Malcolm Horsman and Mr. Alastair Goodland.

"Naturally, we did not stand idle when we read the Sunday Times," Lord Erroll said. The position of the two individuals mentioned in the report was for them to make their own minds up about and he believed that they were obtaining advice.

On the position of Bowater and its shareholders, however, Lord Erroll said "we have naturally reviewed the situation in the light of the article. We are not sound asleep." But he remarked, it would not be correct to say that Bowater had instituted its own inquiries into the affairs of Ralli International and its Far East subsidiaries.

He pointed out, however, that Bowater was not going to be "pushed around" just because of newspaper reports.

Economic Diary

EVOLUTION White Paper to published on Thursday. her events and statistics next ek include:

INDAY — National Savings nthly progress report (Oct.).

ONDAY—TUC—Labour Party aison Committee meets at ouse of Commons. Prime inister to discuss import con- ols with employers and unions textile industry. EEC treasury inisters hold council meeting in ussels on taxation proposals. r Monty Finniston, chairman of itish Steel Corporation, opens eelmaking plant, Bellshill. oyal Opera House annual port.

UESDAY — Provisional unem- oyment figures and unfilled icancies (Nov.) Consultants scuss pay beds issue, Central all, Westminster. Mr. Len urray, general secretary TUC, World Traders Club lunch, orld Trade Centre, E.1.

EDNESDAY — Mr. Denis ealey, Chancellor of the Exche- ier, at Foreign Press Associa- on lunch, Savoy Hotel, W. TUC neral council meets. Labour rty national executive meets, MA council discusses junior ospital doctors' action on pay eds.

HURSDAY—National Institute f Economic and Social Research uarterly review expected. unior hospital doctors begin 40- our week protest. Sir Ralph ateman, president CBI, at lotor Factors' Association inner, Park Lane Hotel, W. ousing starts, completions and rants (Oct.) Energy Trends ublication. Capital expendi- re by the manufacturing dis- ibutive and service industries 3rd qtr.-prov.). Manufacturers' nd distributors' stocks (3rd qtr. rov.). DOE Gazette will in- lude employment in production ndustries (Sept.), overtime and hort-time working in manufac- uring industries (Sept.), and toppages of work due to indus- rial disputes (Oct.).

RIDAY — Construction new rders (Sept.). Bricks and ement production (Oct.).

Safety probe into air accidents

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE ACCIDENT which killed six people and destroyed the Hawker HS-125 executive jet while it was taking off from Dunsfold, Surrey, on Thursday afternoon was the second crash within just over a week caused by bird strikes.

On November 12 a DC-10 three-engined jet of Overseas National Airways was taking off from Kennedy Airport, New York, with ten crew and 129 passengers for Jeddah when a flock of birds flew up in front of it. One engine caught fire, the aircraft swerved off the runway and was destroyed, after crew and passengers had escaped by safety-chute, mostly without serious injury.

Bird collisions are one of the most frequently encountered hazards in civil aviation, causing many accidents. The birds are attracted in flocks to the comparative safety of the wide expanses of airports, and they become a constant nuisance, defying all the wiles of man to dislodge them. The possibility of severe bird "strikes" was one argument against siting the proposed third London Airport at Maplin on reclaimed land off the Essex Coast — the haunt of Brent geese and other water birds.

Organised shoots, putting down poison, the use of scarecrows—static and flapping ones—frequent patrols by men with dogs and loud-hailers, and even use of falcons, as at RAF Lossiemouth, all work for a brief period to scare birds away, but they return, and most airport authorities in the world have had to come to terms with the problem. One significant item in every airport budget is employment full-time of men and machines on bird-scaring duties.

The studies that are now to be conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board in the U.S. following the DC-10 crash, and the Accidents Investigation Branch of the Department of Trade (probably also the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough) following the HS-125 accident, will be aimed at finding more effective ways of preventing bird-flocks settling at airports, or moving them on if they do. But most airport authorities believe they have done just about all they can already.

Eastern Region plans cuts to save £1m. a year

BY ARTHUR SMITH

BRITISH RAIL'S Eastern Region announced plans yesterday for service cuts to save £1m. in a full year.

Detailed changes still had to be negotiated with the trade unions and would not take effect until next May, BR stated.

The moves are part of the economies sought throughout the rail network to prevent Government passenger subsidies rising beyond the £330m. likely to be incurred this year.

Six trains a day are to be axed on the inter-city services out of King's Cross- one each way on services to Cleethorpes, Hull and Leeds. Extra connecting and compensatory services would be arranged where necessary, the Region says.

Services to Humberside would be cut 25 per cent. to three direct trains each way between King's Cross and North and South Humberside.

Some summer trains to resorts such as Blackpool and Llandudno might be affected and there would also be modifications to catering facilities on all routes.

Inner suburban services into London's Liverpool Street would be "thinned out slightly," with a cut back in the peak Chingford, Enfield, Gidea Park, Shenfield services. The Tottenham to North Woolwich route would be reduced to peak trains only and the Saturday service between Tottenham and Stafford withdrawn.

The Liverpool Street to Bishop's Stortford service was scheduled for reductions in peak service.

BR maintained that the economies were designed to cause "the least possible inconvenience" to passengers

Redundancy at Rubery Owen

A HUNDRED and eighty workers at Rubery Owen in Darlaston, Staffordshire, are facing redundancy. The men work in the company's metal equipment department where components are made for office equipment. The firm say there has been a slump in orders and the work load has fallen to a level which means the unit is no longer economic. Plans to close the department are being discussed by management representatives and senior shop stewards.

MORE AID FOR BUREAUX

The Citizens' Advice Bureau network is to get an additional £200,000 in aid, Mr. Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced in a Commons written reply.

OVERSEAS NEWS

MPLA claim tide of war turning in their favour

BY JANE BERGEROL LUANDA, Nov. 21.

LUNDA PROVINCE, on the eastern border with Zaire, currently faces constant danger of an FNLA attack from across more than 200 miles of wild border country. But, so far, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) of the border area, plus the support it has gained from the eastern people here, have prevented any major attack, despite heavy concentrations of Zaire troops on the other side of the frontier.

Lunda, together with Moxico and Malange, are a potentially crucial battleground in the war, pitting the MPLA against the National Front of Holden Roberto and Dr. Jonas Savimbi's Unita, both of whom have major military headquarters nearby at Silva Porto and Cangumbe.

Recent attempts by FNLA and Unita troops to edge northwards from their Cangumbe base and southwards from Zaire into the band of MPLA territory running from the coast out to Lunda have, however, failed. Driving along the Zaire border in Lunda, however, one sees little sign of military activity beyond regular MPLA border control points, and most key bridges spanning the many rivers in the border area have been either destroyed or placed under guard.

In the past few days the eastern front has seen increased military action as FNLA and Unita attempted to cut through the MPLA territory west of Lunda, in a double-pronged action southwards from the Zaire border and north from their base at Cangumbe. Both offensives were beaten back by MPLA troops and furthermore, the MPLA offensive against Cangumbe, launched from their eastern base at Luso, is claimed to be going well.

On the northern front, there are reliable reports of a second MPLA push northwards, nearer the coast, to back up its so far strong thrust up towards Carmona, the FNLA's northern headquarters. In the south, where the MPLA was forced over the past three weeks to fall back from the advancing mercenary lead column that took Mocamedes, Benguela and Lobita, the military situation appears to have stalemated for the moment.

But it may be at an important turning point for the MPLA. MPLA sources say that a southern offensive is underway and claim that an initial limited action has been successful.

Nyerere warns of Rhodesia war

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

PRESIDENT Julius Nyerere of Tanzania said in London yesterday that war is now inevitable in Rhodesia. It was equally inevitable, he said, that the arms for the "freedom fighters" would come from the Communist countries.

Mr. Nyerere also told a Press conference that he was deeply concerned about the situation in Angola, but declined to condemn the Soviet Union for supplying arms to the Marxist Popular Movement for Angolan Liberation (MPLA). There was a distinction, he said, between Soviet arms supplies which had begun during the fight for independence, and supplies by other great powers which were now going to the anti-MPLA coalition of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and Unita.

Almost as Mr. Nyerere was speaking, Reuter reported from Lusaka a Unita claim to have captured 20 Russian soldiers fighting alongside the MPLA in the battle for the key Angolan town of Malanje, which was taken by FNLA-Unita forces earlier this week.

On Rhodesia, Mr. Nyerere now believes that no amount of talking is going to bring about the desired changes. "We have come to the conclusion," he said, "that the time is not ready for meaningful negotiations. . . . It is a question of power and Smith (the Rhodesian Prime Minister) has the power."

Mr. Nyerere disclosed that in earlier talks with the British Government he had raised the question of possible British arms supplies to the Rhodesian Africans. But on his State visit to Britain this week he was so certain the answer would be no that he had not even asked.

The Africans, he said, could not fight Smith with bows and arrows. Therefore they would have to get arms where they could, which meant the Communist countries.

Mr. Nyerere also believes that South Africa cannot put sufficient pressure on Mr. Smith to persuade him to reach a settlement. There is no question, he thinks, of South Africa applying economic sanctions.

Nkomo-Smith 'pledge'

BY DELLA DENMAN DAR ES SALAAM, Nov. 21.

THE REV. Ndabaningi Sithole to-day made public a "declaration of intention to negotiate a settlement" in Rhodesia which will be signed by his African Nationalist rival, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, and Prime Minister Ian Smith.

The declaration, first mentioned by Mr. Nkomo earlier this week after talks with Tanzania's President Nyerere, pledges the two men to begin immediate negotiations to find a settlement acceptable to all the people of Rhodesia.

Mr. Sithole, living in exile in Dar es Salaam, predictably called it a sell-out, and warned that any settlement which might follow would be fought by the bulk of Rhodesia's African majority to the last man.

The eight-clause declaration settles the important question of immunity from arrest, detention and harassment for the African negotiators.

ment, negotiated with Mr. Nkomo over the past month in Salisbury, the Rhodesian Prime Minister says any duly appointed ANC delegate can enter and leave Rhodesia with full diplomatic immunity.

Mr. Nkomo said in Dar es Salaam on Monday that he expected to sign a declaration of intent with Mr. Smith within ten days. Further talks were expected before the two men put their signatures to the document, but it should remain largely unchanged. It is to be witnessed by South African and Zambian Government representatives.

Our United Nations correspondent adds: Britain to-day joined a consensus in the UN General Assembly which approved a resolution, one of the provisions of which was a reaffirmation of the principle of no independence before majority rule in Rhodesia.

Sharp decline in Nigerian surplus

LAGOS, Nov. 21.

NIGERIA'S payments surplus plunged 55 per cent. during the first half of 1975 compared with the same period last year, the Nigerian Central Bank disclosed to-day.

In its review of the economy during the first six months of the year, the bank said Nigeria recorded a balance of payments surplus of $541.92m. compared to $1.203bn. in first six months of 1974.

It attributed the decline to a sharp drop in oil earnings together with a greatly increased import Bill.

Nigeria's oil production has dropped from a peak of 2.4m. barrels daily last year to an average of around 1.7m. barrels this year, as a result of a world cut-back in demand and deliberate Government conservation policy. AP-DJ

● The Nigerian High Commissioner in London, Alhaji Ahmadu Suka, who was reported to have been ordered to remain in Lagos by the chairman of the special tribunal investigating the country's massive cement imports, returned to London on Thursday, the High Commission said yesterday.

Beirut gunmen return

BY IHSAN HIJAZI BEIRUT, Nov 21.

GUN BATTLES, kidnappings, killings and unsafe roads are again the order of the day here as tension continues to rise.

This morning gunmen took to the streets in the capital and the suburbs, setting up roadblocks and checking cars and pedestrians, while armed gangs from rival Leftist and Rightist factions exchanged heavy machine-gun fire in the hotline districts on the city outskirts and outlying suburbs.

Other gunmen still went around in what have become known as "mobile roadblocks," kidnapping innocent people. A great deal of tension was generated when four Moslems were kidnapped yesterday at a roadblock in the port area. Their dead bodies were later found near their cars. Altogether 12 people were killed in the past 24 hours and 20 were wounded.

Radio Lebanon has been warning the public against unsafe roads and streets where gunmen were operating.

While the situation was getting out of hand, the special committee in charge of enforcing the four-week-old ceasefire has thus far failed to check the deterioration.

The Higher Co-ordination Committee, as it is called, met yesterday under Premier Rashid Karami himself. Its members, who were supposed to represent the warring factions, gave yet another promise to exert special efforts to cool the situation.

Innocenti workers march

BY ANTHONY ROBINSON ROME, Nov. 21.

COLUMNS of Leyland Innocenti workers and students marched past the British Embassy to-day on the first leg of a demonstration march through Rome.

The march took place one day before the Government is scheduled to give its definititive view of how the jobs of 1,500 Innocenti workers, threatened by dismissal, can be saved.

The 1,500 jobs in question at Leyland Innocenti, plus the 1,450 workers facing dismissal by Industrie Pirelli, have acquired a symbolic importance for the trade union movement which is threatening massive solidarity strikes if these jobs are not saved.

After a lengthy board meeting Pirelli announced the dismissal details to-night. They become operational in one month's time and it is most likely that further negotiations will take place during this period.

Moynihan 'may quit UN'

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 21.

MR. DANIEL MOYNIHAN, the United States chief delegate to the United Nations, whose bitter criticisms of the world body's Communist and Third World majority have made him far and away the most controversial diplomat here, was reported to-day to be thinking about leaving.

A Press conference at which Mr. Moynihan was expected to make an announcement was cancelled, apparently after he had talked to President Ford and Dr. Henry Kissinger.

But the White House later today expressed confidence in Mr. Moynihan. A statement by a spokesman for President Ford said the President "fully approves of what the ambassador is doing at the United Nations."

Mr. Moynihan, 48, a professor at Havard before coming to the UN, and before that Ambassador to India, is a strong advocate of America's hitting back at its critics. But he gave strong offence to many African members when he not only called President Idi Amin a "racist murderer" but added it was no accident the Uganda leader was chairman of the OAU.

While there has been a strong undercurrent of resentment here at such hard-hitting remarks, it was a speech to the UN Association of the U.S. which Mr. Ivor Richard, the chief British delegate, made last Monday that appears to have touched off the speculation that Mr. Moynihan may be on his way out.

Breytenbach pleads guilty

BY GRAHAM HATTON JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 21.

THE AFRIKAANS poet Breyten Breytenbach pleaded guilty to-day in the Pretoria Palace of Justice to charges under the Terrorism Act. He lodged certain amendments to the indictment which limited the charge to that of seeking through illegal means to establish a Black Government. Mr. Breytenbach's alleged aim of trying to establish a Communist society was deleted from the indictment.

The prosecution outlined an alleged conspiracy to overthrow the Government and how Mr. Breytenbach and others had formed a clandestine organisation at the request of the banned African National Congress. Its main aim was to topple the Government, if necessary by armed struggle.

Juan Carlos to be sworn in to-day as King

By Roger Matthews

MADRID, Nov. 21

SECURITY in Madrid was tightened to-night in preparation for to-morrow's swearing in of Juan Carlos of Bourbon as King of Spain. Key areas and buildings in the city were guarded by police with sub machine-guns in an effort to forestall any extremist violence aimed at overshadowing the inauguration.

Seven weeks ago, when General Franco attended his last mass pro-regime rally in front of the Royal Palance, four police were gunned down by Left-wing guerilla groups. To-day the atmosphere around the Royal Palace where General Franco is lying in state was one of calm and patience as tens of thousands of Spaniards waited in huge queues to file past the open coffin.

Many people carried flowers as they settled for a wait of up to seven hours. Mostly they were middle-aged and elderly, although some younger people were present. Reactions as they passed the coffin varied from quiet respect to open weeping and from some men the stiff right arm Fascist salute. The Cabinet suspended its normal Friday meeting in order to welcome visitors from foreign governments. The only two heads of State expected to be at Sunday's funeral are General Pinochet of Chile and King Hussein of Jordan who arrived this afternoon.

One of the first acts of Juan Carlos after he becomes King will be to appoint General Franco a Duke of Spain. This will confer a title on the General's widow and assure her of a place in the State's protocol.

World Governments and especially those from Western Europe will be given a clearer chance to express their provisional support for the new King next Thursday. King Juan Carlos is to take the salue at a military march past in front of the Royal Palace and will later give a reception, ceremonies which will effectively mark the introduction of the new regime. President Giscard d'Estaing of France, U.S. Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller together with Foreign Ministers from many other countries are likely to be there.

The new King will soon have to turn his attention again to the Spanish Sahara where bitterness over the tripartite agreement with Morocco and Mauritania is steadily mounting. Part of the local population, who want independence and not domination from Morocco, are receiving more arms from Algeria and are threatening to step up their guerilla action.

Prisoners in Spanish jails 'now in danger'

By Robin Reeves

BRUSSELS, Nov. 21.

ACUTE CONCERN for the lives of the hundreds of political prisoners now held in Spanish jails, many of them rounded up in the recent wave of arrests, was expressed at a Press conference here to-day called by Spanish opposition groups of the left, but excluding the Communists.

They argued that these people were at the mercy of the extreme right elements in the country, who would stop at nothing to try to prop up the existing power structure of Francist regime. European governments were urged to bring all pressure to bear on the Spanish authorities immediately, and push it in the direction of democracy. "It would be dangerous to wait and see first how Juan Carlos turns out. The future will depend in large measure, on the attitude of Western Europe," the group spokesman declared.

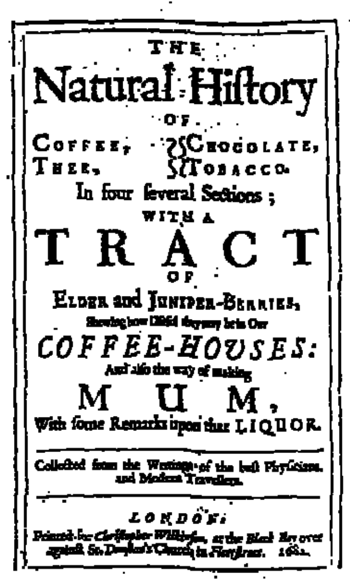
The group stressed that their parties were implacably opposed to the appointment of Juan Carlos as head of state. He had had ample opportunity during the past ten years to disassociate himself from the worst excesses of the Franco regime, as recently as the September executions when he could have established more liberal credentials.

Collecting wisely

Early cookery books

BY JUNE FIELD

THE DERIVATION of food and drink and its medicinal value make a worthwhile specialisation for the cookery book collector. Platina's De Honesta Voluptate, 1475, in Latin, *recorded as the first* printed cookery book, treats the quality of various foods as a way of life, pointing out how meat, fish, fruit and vegetables preserve as well as nourish the body.



THE Natural Hiftory OF COFFEE, THEE, CHOCOLATE, TOBACCO. In four feveral Sections; WITH A TRACT OF ELDER and JUNIPER-BERRIES, Shewing how Ufeful they may be in Our COFFEE-HOUSES: And alfo the way of making MUM, With fome Remarks upon that LIQUOR. Collected from the Writings of the beft Phyficians, and Modern Travellers. LONDON: Printed for Chriftopher Wilkinfon, at the Black Boy over againft St. Dunftan's Church in Fleetftreet. 1682.

Platina was originally named Sacchi, and was at one time librarian at the Vatican; his appointment to the post of Vatican Prefect is commemorated on a plaque which shows Pope Sixtus IV surrounded by his court.

About De Aspargo Condito, savoury asparagus, which should be soaking wet, stretched across a shallow dish and have the *salt and oil of a sea mammal* rubbed in, one is assured: "The pure middle of the asparagus, when consumed, will disperse any inflammation of the stomach and bring a cleanness to the eyes: it soothes gently. It is good also for pains in the chest, in the back and in the intestines . . . The root of the asparagus should be rubbed, and when put in white wine, will get rid of gall-stones. It is also believed that the real juice *of the asparagus* is a useful cure for alcoholic poisoning."

The British Museum has six editions of this book: a rare one, not in Bitting or Simon, the gastronomic *bibliographies*, comes up in Bonham's book sale at their Montpelier Galleries, Knightsbridge on Wednesday, with an estimate of £750-£1,000 on it; and remember, unless you subscribe to the late Dr. A. N. L. Mumby's view that "any don *will agree that in some occult* manner knowledge can be imbibed merely by sitting with half-closed eyes in a room lined with books," you will also need a Latin grammar.

Of the three staple non-alcoholic beverages, chocolate, coffee and tea, chocolate was the first to reach Europe, the Conquistadores bringing it back from the Americas to Spain. Initially it was a very rich concoction, according to the recipe of one Antonio Colmenero, given in 1631:

"For every 100 cacoa beans, mix two berries of chilli or Mexican pepper — those large berries which are called chilpatlague—or, failing those, two Indian peppercorns, a handful of aniseed, two of those flowers known as 'little ears' or *vincartlides*, and two of those known as *mesasuchil*. . . . Instead of the latter one could include *the powder of the six roses of* Alexandria . . . a little pod of logwood, two drachmae of cinnamon, a dozen almonds and as many hazelnuts, half a pound of sugar, and enough arnotto (a dye plant) to give colour to the whole."

The Spaniards simplified the *whole thing by only adding* honey or sugar, vanilla or cinnamon to the beans. In the 1650s, after it had become popular in London's coffee houses, chocolate was bought in rolls or cakes, sliced or scraped fine, then boiled in water, with a little sugar. When it was off the fire, it was whirled vigorously with a hand-mill (a notched knop at the end of a slender stick), which produced a froth on the liquid.

Two interesting books on these beverages are in the *Bibliotheca Phillippica* sale at Sotheby's on Monday and Tuesday. *The Manner of Making of Coffee, Tea and Chocolate*, printed for William Crook at the Green Dragon 1685, a treatise dedicated to Sir Thomas Clayton, Warden of Merton College, Oxford, has a pre-sale estimate of £80/£120; while John Chamberlayne's *The Natural History of Coffee, Thee, Chocolate, Tobacco* 1682, with a tract of elder and juniper berries showing how useful they may be *in* our coffee-houses, is expected to fetch £100/£150.

The latter also gives the way *of making mum, a strong beer* made in Brunswick, ". . . a very hearty and strengthening liquor; some drink it much, because it has no hops, which they fancy do spoil our English ales and beers."

The basic ingredients appeared to be several bushels of wheat-malt, to which was added one bushel each of oat malt, and ground beans; when they began to "work," the tops of Firr and Birch, and handfuls of various herbs, were put in, the lot topped with 10 new laid eggs, the shells not cracked or broken.

No wonder it was credited as being good for such "Chronical distempers as Scurvies, Dropsies and some sort of consumption." The Germans had so great a veneration for it "that they fancy their bodies can never decay, or pine away, as long as they are Lin'd, and Embalm'd with so powerful a preserver; *and indeed if we consider the* frame, and complexion of the Germans in general, they may be living Mummies."

For the budget-minded collector, there is a new list out from Abigail Books, Portland Cottage, Buckham Hill, Uckfield, Sussex; it includes John Kirkland's *All About Breadmaking*, a reprint of 10 lectures given in 1907, on Flours, Yeasts, Ovens and Enzymes, £2.25, and *A Culinary Collection*, which contains *recipes from the staff of the* Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; this entertaining contemporary cookbook with engravings from a 1570 Italian book by the chef of Pope Pius V, is an interesting buy at £3.75, boxed, plus 55p postage.

A novel exhibition *Food and Drink*, opens on Tuesday until December 1 at the Colin Lacy Gallery, 38 Ledbury Road, London, W.11. On sale, at prices from £5-£500 will be prints, watercolours, oil paintings, all devoted to eating and drinking, plus still-lifes of food, and antiquarian cookery books. There *is not an overall catalogue, but* Jane Clarke has one out on her books, which she will post from the Manor House, Hunsterson, Nantwich, Cheshire.

The Arts

Der Rosenkavalier

BY MAX LOPPERT

A quantity of magic settled on Thursday's revival of *Der Rosenkavalier* at Covent Garden. It is a quality always urgently required (and usually unavailable) for Strauss's opera, to paper over the cracks and persuade the spectator that the four hours spent watching the exhaustive working out of an essentially trivial domestic comedy have been hours well spent. The restaging of the Visconti production by Charles Hamilton was a little lacking in elegance, and musically the performance was not perhaps of great vintage; but there were vital currents flowing between protagonist and antagonist, older and younger woman, and the result was unusually alert and entertaining.

Brigitte Fassbaender and Edith Mathis

Leonard

Although the planned novelty was the first Feldmarschallin in this country of Gwyneth Jones, it is the unscheduled Baron Ochs of Hans Sotin (replacing an indisposed Michael Langdon) that demands pride of place. Mr. Sotin is that rarity, a tall, robust Ochs with a broad but not caricatured manner, and a voice of authentic German bass nobility and splendour also capable of undertaking the niceties of comedy. In every gesture, he gave off a genial freshness and frankness that both defied and advanced the portrayal of rude, *vigorous appetites*. If at times the sheer beauty of sound drew one in surprise out of the action, the pleasure was as great as it was unexpected (the voice is handsomely convincing at both extremities of the compass). Whenever he was on stage, Ochs became in spirit—as it was in the composer's original intention—the title role.

Because this was a credible, vital assumption, and because the Baron's young adversary sprang to life in Brigitte Fassbaender's impulsive, dashingly sung account of Octavian, all those grey areas of horseplay and foolery in the second and third acts gained colour and impulse. It was a scherzo-like *Rosenkavalier*, enhanced by an abundance of neatly humorous small sketches (notably Derek Hammond-Stroud as Faninal, Gillian Knight and John Dobson *as the intriguers), and promoted* by the bustling, un-massive touch of the conductor, Silvio Varviso.

He is, as Royal Opera audiences have already discovered, no dawdler. Those visiting the revival in search of a super-fatted, emotional *banquet must* have been disappointed by his refusal to linger over and taper off the Act 1 close, to caress the first encounter of Octavian and Sophie, *to stretch out the Trio*. For me, the bright, clear orchestral tone, the atmosphere of purpose and spirit, and the prompt responses of pit and stage were all fair exchange.

Singing from the Marschallin more even in eloquence might have redressed the balance—and could still do, when Miss *Jones finds her best form*. As in the past, it grieves an admirer of her great spontaneous expressiveness, her natural gift of communicating feeling, to have *to describe her far-from-flawless* vocal line, which on Thur[sday] was apt to curdle at the bo[ttom] ("Das alles ist geheim, so geheim" was sadly raw [and] unfocused) and bump or [stab] out single notes above [in a] familiar, distressing fashion.

Apt, also, to form the su[...] ravishing phrases — "sili[...] Ros'n," floated clean and [...] was a good example—of [...] the entire part ought to be [...] *She looked beautiful; allow[ing a]* wealth of delicately judge[d ex]pressions to cross her face; while the virtual absence [of] legato made the purling o[f dis]tinguished conversational [...] impossible, she was wise [and] true in managing the fig[ure]. Sophie of Edith Mathis was not at her sweetest in [first] and last duets with Octa[vian] though delightful elsewhere [...] was hard not to be move[d by] Miss Jones's Marschallin, h[...] still not to regret her imp[...]tions.

Autumn theatre in Budapest

BY FRANK LIPSIUS

The autumn Arts Weeks in Budapest always get the musical season off to a rousing start, but have a more variable effect on the theatre. Because this year they were commemorating the 30th anniversary of Bartok's death, the Arts Weeks concentrated on music and provided less of a service to the theatre than in the past, but the new season has in any case emerged in its own, rather hesitating, way.

I Am 30 opened at the Vigszinház at the very end of *last season and was delayed in* its re-opening because of construction work in the street which seems to have threatened the structural foundations of *the theatre. Produced by the* same group that was responsible for Eastern Europe's first rock musical two years ago, *Imaginary Report on an American Pop Festival*, the new play takes the same elements of a serious story line and excellent music to a new subject: unfortunately László Marton, the director of both plays, also repeats the stiff-kneed choreography which I must say disturbed me more than the slick political point of view that other, usually older, critics detected in the new work.

The play is a succession of scenes depicting the young generation's version of the Second World War. The emphasis, of course, is on the *martyrs and the oppressors, for* among the switchings back and forth are constant reminders that most young people know about the war from the stories of parents and history lessons, which are bound to highlight just the events that make good listening—and good viewing. The young generation are not to be faulted for having a distorted picture of the war, and to be interested in it at all when the same generation in the rest of the world are content to leave it *to the consciences of their* parents compensates for any lack of profundity in the result.

The 21 young actors prancing around the stage moved naturally *and unobtrusively from* scene to scene. That in itself was a major accomplishment; the awkwardnesses arose when attention was focused on one or two actors and the rest were made to freeze in position like robots. On the whole, the pathos of dead soldiers being carried across the stage or the murder of the world-champion fencer because he was a Jew came across better than the mock heroics of rebuilding Budapest after the war, in scenes which took up a large part of the second act. The music by Gábor Presser perfectly captured the moods and styles of anything from the fox-trotting 'thirties to the depressed 'forties, while Anna Ádamis's lyrics demonstrate just how much contemporary pop music moves beyond the incessant love themes of older styles, even when imitating their music.

A new play by Istvan Örkény, *Blood Relations*, opened in the midst of revivals of a number of his older works. The new play, *in spite of an energetic performance* by top actors spanning age groups 18 to almost 80, relies more on technique than content. In his preface to the published version of the play, Örkény claims he was writing "about the nature of passion . . . and the audience may substitute his own [obsession]: his country, his faith, his party. . . ." But if there is courage in addressing such a theme, it is dissipated in choosing a nonsensical passion like railways, as Örkény does. Funny moments inevitably arise *for Örkény knows how to exploit* his theme—if only the laughter had taken a bite at a more sinewy target. The cast had the unenviable job of addressing the audience most of the time [but] they handled it well, and Z[...] Várkonyi's direction, [though] rather breathless, kept the [audi]ence from pouncing on the [...] disappointment, at least unt[il the] final curtain.

A production of *Hedda G[abler]* directed by György Lengye[l gives] young actors in the prin[cipal] parts, adding another dime[nsion] to the neurosis of Éva Ai[...] Hedda and to the diffiden[ce of] András Bálint's Tesman. [The] young men, Lovborg and [the] judge make a gregarious [...] that emphasises all the [more] Hedda's withdrawal and [isola]tion. Among western plays in production in Budapes[t are] Neil Simon's *The Sunshine [Boys]* and Alan Ayckbourn's *Al[...] Person Singular*. The [Ayck]bourn play, in a translatio[n by] Judit Szántó, is being do[ne at] the József Attila Theatre [in] a working-class neighbour[hood] where it is reportedly [going] down very well.

The decision of two of [Hun]gary's top actors—a ma[rried] couple—to move from Bud[apest] to a provincial theatre caus[ed a] scandal when announced [last] year. Éva Vass and Miklós G[ábor] have now had their first [...] in their new home at Kecske[mét]. *In a severe production* [of] Racine's *Berenice* directe[d by] József Ruszt, Gábor keeps t[o the] slow, imperial pace that [...] demands, but still manage[s to] convey all the passion [and] attractiveness of Antiochus. Vass, however, is a disapp[oint]ment as Berenice, making [one] wonder what all the fus[s is] about, while István Farády [does] not have the presence to [be a] Titus or rival to Gábor for[...] one's affections. Ruszt, o[ne of] Hungary's best young dire[ctors] deserves credit for the se[...] ambition of *Berenice*, th[ough] the first glimpse also under[lines] the danger of turning a com[pany] into a vehicle for specific a[ctors] however good or reputable.

Royal Courtiers

Playwrights' Theatre. Terry Browne. Pitman, £3.50, paperback £1.95. 135 pages

Professor Browne spent a year at the Royal Court researching his history of the English Stage Company. He has produced a solid account of the company's achievement between that memorable day when George Devine got up on a chair in the ruins of the Kingsway Theatre (and was with difficulty persuaded to get down again) and the company's work until the end of 1972.

I would have thought, all the same, that the publishers would have done better to commission someone on the spot, having closer, and longer, associations with the theatre, *who would* have had to rely less on the accounts of others and would perhaps have made fewer errors.

The errors are trivial but tiresome, varying from such *misspellings* as Ghandi and Howard Benton to mis-descriptions like the categorisation of Ludovic Kennedy's *Murder Story* as a "mystery." Considering what dealings the ESC had with the Lord Chamberlain's office, you'd think they could get nearer Sir St. Vincent Troubridge's name than Sir Vincent Truebridge.

Still, pick your way carefully through the book and you will have a fair idea of how this important company fared in the first 15 years of its life. The tables in the appendices are of value.

B. A. YOUNG

One of Rudolf Heinrich's costume designs for the title part in [the] English National Opera's new production of Strauss's 'Salom[e'] which is to open at the London Coliseum on December 11

Theatres this week

THEATRE AT NEW END—*Death Story*. Silly variation on *Romeo and Juliet* in which the Capulets represent the rich and the Montagues the workers. Opened Monday.

ROYAL COURT — *The Fool*. *Scenes of bucolic life* centred round the career of John Clare the Northamptonshire poet, but not exclusively confined to real facts. Excessively large scale *for* such an intimate subject; moving and effective all the same, with Tom Courtenay as Clare. Opened Tuesday.

HER MAJESTY'S — *Ipi-To[mbi]*. Bright, cheerful but r[...] empty big-scale song and d[ance] show about the life of the b[...] South African blacks. Op[ened] Wednesday.

ALBERY — *A Month in [the] Country*. Last summer's Chi[ches]ter production, brisk and [...] to look at, with Dorothy T[utin], Derek Jacobi and Timothy [...] The beginning of a rep se[ason] by Prospect Theatre, to alter[nate] with *A Room with a [View]*. Opened Thursday.

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

Saturday, November 22 1975

STAMPS, COINS and MEDALS

During recent years investors in stamps, coins and medals have often achieved an impressive rate of return on their money. Banknotes and antique maps are also a growing attraction for collectors.

·est f oth ·orlds

·NG THE reasons usually ·ced for the impressive ·ity of the stamp and coin ·ets is the fact that they are ·minantly collector fields have thus escaped the ·lative hysteria that occa·ly pops up, with disastrous ·s, in some of the broader ·es of the art market.

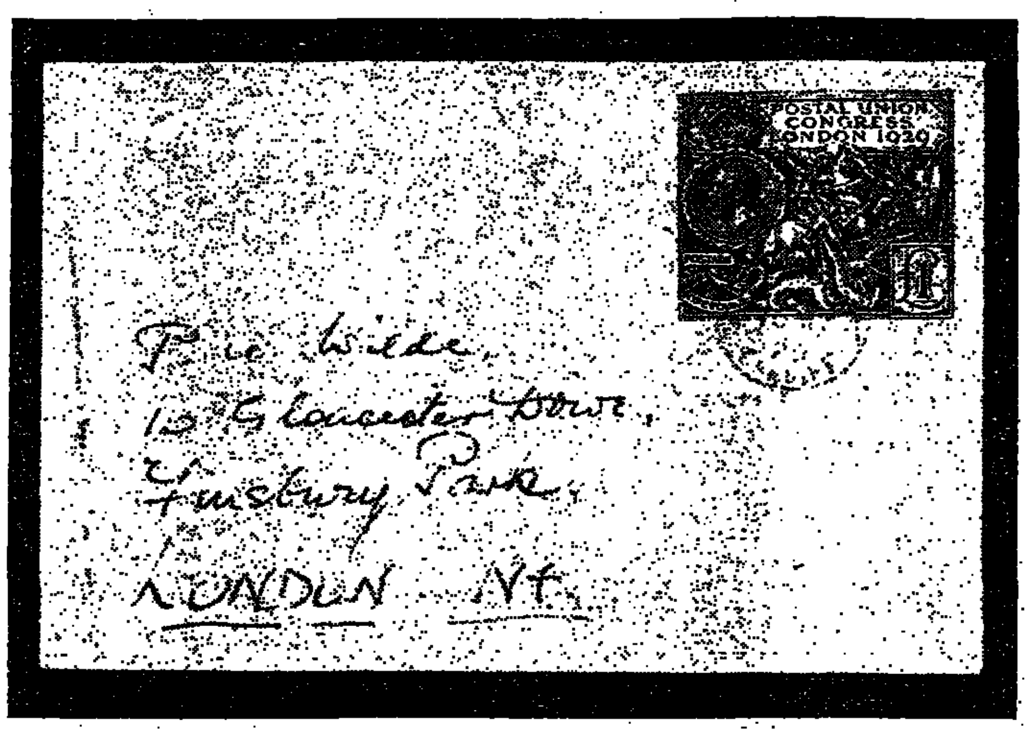
the other hand, the invest· performance of stamps and over the past ten years ·ı some cases been miracu· so that old-style collectors ·ormed exhaustive displays ·dless of cost and heedless ·ofit are now giving way to ·or-collectors who enjoy the ·of both worlds.

· of the most outstanding ·s to philately's investment ·tial is a new book* by Narbeth and David Lyon, of whom work for Stanley ·ons. They point out that ·ared with an ormolu clock Georgian chair, a postage · may seem insignificant. Yet stamps have to rank among the most valuable commodities, for they sometimes work out at £40,000-plus for less than a square inch of paper.

Authors Narbeth and Lyon provide a fascinating guide to the ground rules for stamp and banknote collecting — plus a description of recent investment trends. And there is no shortage of anecdotes. Among the greatest stamp rarities are the Mauritius 1d orange-red and 2d blue "Post Office" issues of 1847, which to-day change hands at £40,000-plus in unused condition and at around £27,000 if used.

In 1891 a collector placed the following newspaper advertisement: "A Stamp Collector, the possessor of a collection of 12,544 stamps, wishes to marry a lady who is an ardent collector and the possessor of the blue twopenny stamp of Mauritius issued in 1847." Unfortunately we do not know whether he met and married a lady with the stamp, but to-day such romanticism has been replaced by the open cheque book.

Stanley Gibbons itself runs an investment service for collectors, which, since its launch four years ago, has performed impressively. The service is intended for collectors with a minimum of £500 to invest and aims to build up a portfolio of selected specialised classic material ("classic" means before 1900), including single stamps, blocks, covers, proofs and postal history items. According to Stanley Gibbons, selected items repurchased in recent months from investors' portfolios have in many cases shown net price increases of upwards of 12.5 to 15 per cent. per annum.



An example of Great Britain's Postal Union Congress £1 black of 1929 used on a cover on the first day of issue, May 10, 1929. It realised £825 at a recent Stanley Gibbons auction.

In its 1973 investment brochure the company listed 13 specific stamps with a total value of £82,940. The 13 included the Australian 1913 £2 "Kangaroo," whose value since 1962 has moved from £50 to £550, and the Great Britain 1867-83 Queen Victoria £5, whose value over the same period has grown from £375 to £2,500. The current total value of the 13 stamps in the brochure is put at £130,855, an increase — in three years — of well over 50 per cent.

According to Narbeth and Lyon, a growing offshoot of stamp collecting is postal history, which is literally the study of the way letters travelled and the history of the posts. At a sale in London in March, 1974, a letter from Florence dated 1454, showing a superb manuscript Guild symbol, fetched £25, while a fine and rare letter from Naples dated 1459 showing Ferdinand of Aragon's personal embossed stamp — a crowned "F" in a circle — made £50. This was a remarkably small price considering that embossed handstamps like this were probably the forerunners of all postal markings.

Broker

Another lively market is coins and medals. A recent development was the launching of a new company, Harcourt Russell, which has been set up to provide a broker service for collectors at commission rates of 8 to 10 per cent., which is appreciably lower than a dealer's average mark-up of around 30 per cent.

Dealers, of course, have sizeable overheads and large stock costs to worry about, but even so, the man behind Harcourt Russell, former MP Mr. Harold Gurden, is able to recount the case of a William III crown in extremely fine condition that he bought from a London dealer for £208. Less than 24 hours previously the dealer himself had bought it from an unsuspecting client for just £12.

Mr. Gurden has collected English silver coinage for 20 years and reckons that the average capital appreciation of the coins he bought eight to ten years ago—counting in the good, the bad and the indifferent—is around 500 per cent. For example, a Charles II five guinea piece he bought eight years ago for £360 is now worth £2,200.

Harcourt Russell offers two investment schemes. The first involves the buying and delivery of coin portfolios to any address within the U.K. at a charge of 8 per cent. of the amount invested. The minimum investment is £1,000.

The second scheme, for which the charge is 10 per cent., includes all the facilities of scheme one, with two important extras: first, Harcourt Russell will catalogue the collection and provide background notes on each item of special interest; second, clients will receive a yearly bulletin giving an up-to-date market appraisal, together with further investment recommendations and advice on sales, where appropriate.

Mixed

In all cases clients may indicate a preference for investing in coins or medals, or for a mixed portfolio of both.

There is certainly plenty of price growth in this field. A George III 1818 LVIII Crown, for example, was worth £27 in 1968 and is now worth £70-plus. A Charles I Truro Mint Halfcrown of 1642 was worth £175 seven years ago and is now worth £500, while a Victorian £5 proof of 1839 (Una and the Lion) has moved smoothly from £4,000 18 months ago to £7,000-plus.

"I suppose prices *could* go down," says Mr. Gurden, "but it has never happened yet."

* *Successful Investing in Stamps and Banknotes, by Colin Narbeth and David Lyon. Graham and Trotman, 1975. £3.95.*

Michael Thompson-Noel

Growing trade in charts and maps

APART FROM stamps and banknotes, there is another form of paper antique that is beginning to attract attention—antique maps, together with sea charts and atlases. They can provide a very profitable investment, providing that certain ground rules are observed.

According to Mr. A. Carson Clark, manager of Mapsellers, London's newest map shop: "Put your money into 16th and 17th century maps in the best possible condition you can find and you can't go far wrong. Some 18th century maps are also a good investment, but, as with all antiques, seek expert advice before making a purchase.

"Also make sure the dealer you buy from gives a guarantee of authenticity for the maps he sells, and compare prices and quality from dealer to dealer before making up your mind."

Mr. Clark knows what he is talking about. He is a trained land surveyor and cartographer who started his working career with the Forestry Commission and then went into Ordnance Survey. He has worked in the geography departments of Southampton and Edinburgh Universities and has collected old maps for 28 years.

In 1972, tiring of the academic life, he set himself up in business as a mapseller with his own shop in Edinburgh's Royal Mile, and soon established a flourishing concern. Earlier this year, he sold the business and its entire stock to Stanley Gibbons and moved to London to run Mapsellers for Gibbons just off the Strand. (There are close links between stamp- and map-collecting. Students of early postal history increasingly discover the advantage of owning original maps of the countries or regions whose stamps they collect.)

Mapsellers is now among London's four biggest map shops, and on its way to becoming the biggest. It has a stock of more than 30,000 maps and atlases covering the period 1450-1870, priced at between £5 and £3,000 each. The £3,000 map in stock at present is a Cortez map of Mexico City drawn in 1526; there is one just like it in the British Museum.

A really fine original map coloured at or near the time of publication will always command a premium. For example, British county maps produced by the famous Dutch mapmaker Joan Blaeu in 1654 are particularly sought after if they were hand-coloured at the Bleau workshops in Amsterdam—at one time Blaeu employed 100 map colourists.

Atlas

Even more desirable, though at the very top end of the market, is a complete world atlas of coloured maps by Blaeu published in six volumes between 1650 and 1654. An example of this superb atlas was on show this summer at the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair in London with a price tag of £22,500.

In general, says Mr. Clark, it is cheaper to buy a group of maps in atlas form than to buy them individually, and there is little doubt that good profits have been made by collectors and dealers who have bought up old atlases and resold their contents one at a time.)

Uncoloured maps of the 16th and 17th centuries in a fine state of preservation are also a good buy and could become

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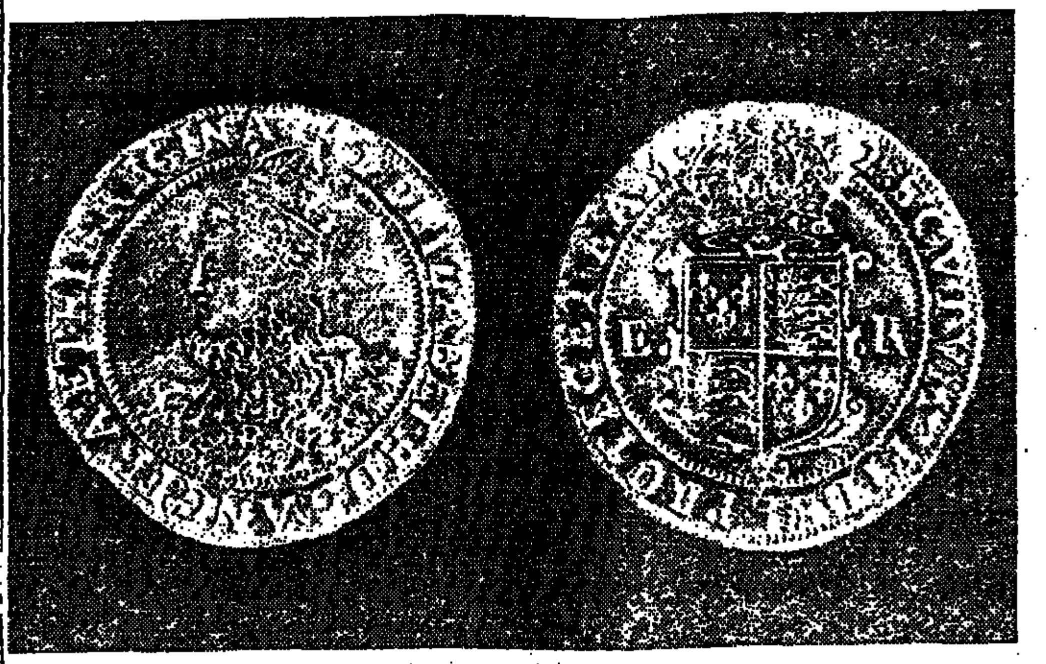
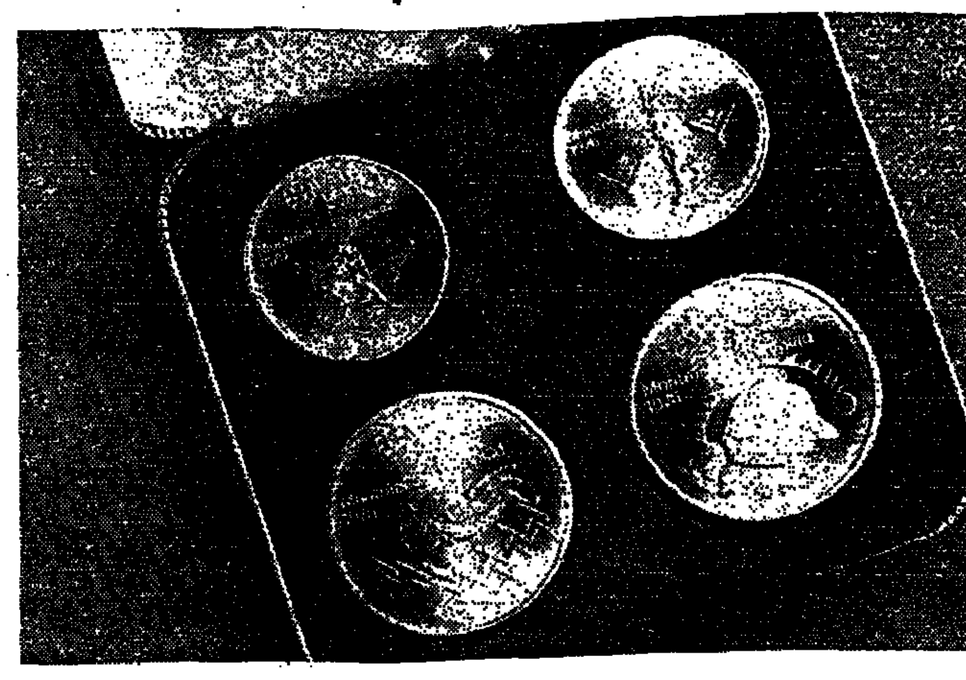


A rare Elizabeth I gold sovereign recently acquired by Stanley Gibbons Currency.



Silver coins minted to help finance the Montreal Olympic Games.

A quieter coin market

IN THE present business recession it is hardly surprising that the market in coins and medals has been somewhat quieter of late, after the prolonged boom of 1973-74. As prices continued to rise dramatically last year elation in trade circles was continually tempered by a sense of foreboding. The market pundits were always quick to pounce on the slightest faltering in prices or auction realisations and interpret this as the end of the boom, if not the beginning of a slump.

The boom of 1974 is undeniably over; but at the same time there is no sign of any slump either. If anything, the present situation is a great deal healthier than it was this time last year. That sense of foreboding has been replaced by a feeling of quiet optimism and there is an air of greater confidence about.

The boom of 1974 was an artificial one in many respects, created largely by the massive injection of investment money into numismatics at a time when the more traditional forms of investment were at an all-time low. This time last year the quest for Kruggerrands, sovereigns and other bullion coins dominated the market. At the same time gold coins with a strong numismatic interest also attained new price levels, culminating in the record price of £26,000 for a five-guinea piece in the Douglas Morris sale exactly a year ago.

Since then prices have levelled off. For much of this year the market in bullion coins has been very quiet. The keen interest in this field was un*doubtedly stimulated* by the then pending relaxation of the American regulations—a move permitting U.S. citizens to acquire gold coins from January 1 last onwards. Anticipation of a big demand from America drove the bullion price of gold close to $200 an ounce at one point. The recession in the American economy gravely affected the demand for gold coins and gold turned out to be the non-event of this year. Since then there has been a decline in the market value of gold coins of purely bullion interest. It has been said, with some justification, that while gold does retain its value it is paradoxically not a good investment.

Sovereigns

Now, however, the price of bullion coins is beginning to *pick up* again. While I tend to take a fairly jaundiced view of purely bullion items like Kruggerrands I would recommend sovereigns with a comparatively large numismatic interest as a good investment at the present time. In particular, British gold coins of the Georgian and early Victorian period, in extremely fine or very fine condition, and later sovereigns with Commonwealth mint-marks are likely to *do better than average over the* next five years.

Curiously enough, the Chancellor's restrictions on modern gold coins, introduced last April, have not had the dire consequences predicted for the *position of London as centre of* the world coin market. Apart from creating a somewhat artificial scarcity for modern coins whose movement has been severely restricted, the Exchange Control (Gold Coins Exemption) *Order 1975* has probably been quite beneficial in deflecting the interest of collectors and investors away from the more speculative modern issues towards the pre-1837 coinage which has an infinitely higher ratio of numismatic to bullion value. This has tended to cushion the effect of any possible slump in the very high prices obtained for pre-19th century gold coins last year.

Significantly, the market has been at *its quietest at the upper* end of the price range, with comparatively little demand for gold coins in the £3,000-plus bracket. It has been argued that uncertainty over the proposed Wealth Tax may have frightened *off potential customers* in the £5,000 to £25,000 market, but the dearth of really fine material in this class is a more probable explanation.

At the lower end of the scale gold coins in the price range £50 to £500 have continued to sell briskly, but there has also been greater diversification and the coins which have done best in recent months have been those belonging to areas which have hitherto been of esoteric interest only. Many of last year's investors have now developed into collectors and acquired maturity and discernment in their approach to coins.

Thus the accent now is on *coins of the best quality* available and the emphasis is laid on pieces with outstanding numismatic interest, whether in gold, silver or base metals. Probably the best performance this year has come from the small denomination silver and bronze coins of the world—a field which had never previously attracted the attention of the investor to any extent and had tended to remain the preserve of the private collector rather than the dealer.

Greek, Roman, Byzantine and medieval European coins have all shown a steady improvement over the past few months, but the most dramatic increases have been in coins of the Commonwealth. Here the yardstick has been two important sales held in June and August. The prices realised for the majority of the colonial coins of the 19th century and earlier were from *50 to 100 per cent. higher than* the average market value, as expressed in catalogues and the price lists of the leading international dealers such as Spink, Richard Lobel and Paramount.

The coinage of Britain's former colonies has been regarded as something of a sleeper in the past decade, but recently interest has perke[d up] enormously. The reasons [are] not hard to find. Eme[rgent] nations are no longer co[ntent] to make use of the coins o[f the] mother country or of [a] colonial grouping. With [the] advent of their own coins, [the] countries, from Jamaica [to] Malaysia, have begun to at[tract] serious interest from colle[ctors] within their own areas an[d] the immediate neighbour[hood] and these collectors, in Ame[rica,] Japan and Europe, have turned their attention to forerunners of the col[onial] period, many of which ar[e de]cidedly elusive and undervalued.

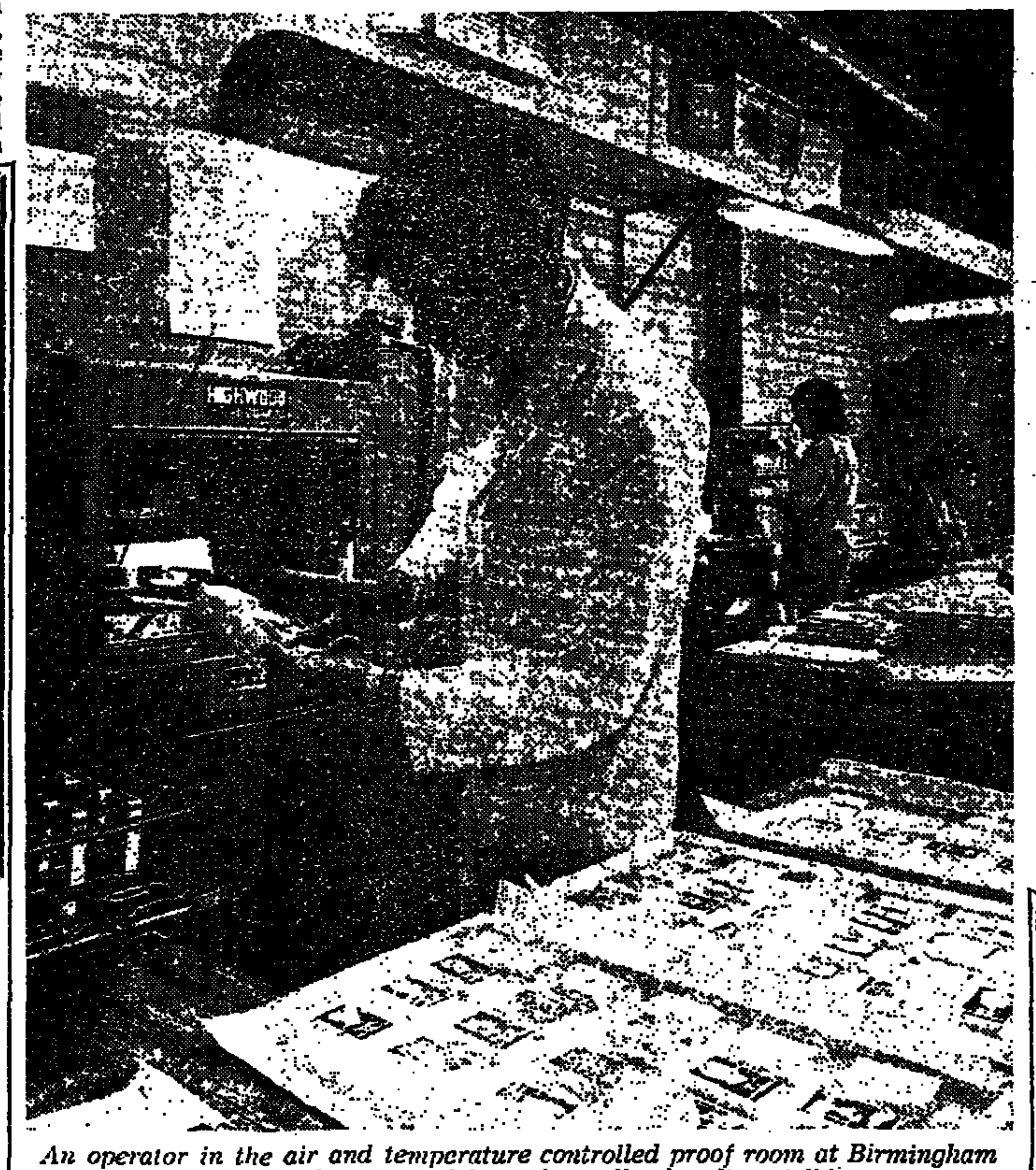
Furthermore, many of newcomers to numismatic[s in] this country have concent[rated] on the coins of *the n*[ew] Commonwealth countries, ling an area where they they have a chance of atta[ining] completion without comp[etition] in the more established as[pects] of numismatics.

Balanced

If current British coins [pro]vide little to excite interest [this] is balanced by the activity i[n the] offshore islands of Guer[nsey,] Jersey and the Isle of [Man] whose commemoratives, es[peci]ally proof crowns, have be[en] particularly popular with c[ollec]tors in Europe and Am[erica.] Among the gold coins tho[se of] the Isle of Man (197[...]) appear to be doing much b[etter] than their Jersey equival[ents,] the 1972 Royal Silver We[dding] series.

Of course, Man has more than its fair share o[f the] limelight lately as a resu[lt of] the decision by the Manx [Gov]ernment to put into circul[ation] 1,000 sets of coints dated 1973 and 1974. A month a[go a] Douglas businessman succe[eded] *in buying a complete* [set] laboriously assembled by change-checkers, for £150; frequent advertisements in [the] local press are asking £5-£[...] coin in attempts to put toge[ther] the 18-coin set.

James Mac[...]



An operator in the air and temperature controlled proof room at Birmingham Mint inspecting a proof ingot immediately after striking.

Charts

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much scarcer if the present craze for colouring antique maps continues. In general, early maps were not coloured. Hand colouring was usually done on request and for an extra charge. The experts say that although the quality of some modern colour work is reasonably good, fine examples of uncoloured maps in their original form are more likely to appreciate in value than maps which have undergone recent tarting up.

Compared with other antiques like furniture, coins and stamps, maps are still cheap and undervalued. A fine map of the 1600's *can still be bought for under* £100 at a time when a letter of 1690 bearing only the signature and one word written by Lord Francis Bacon can sell at £800. On the other hand, good-quality early maps are unlikely to be available at such low prices for much longer, as their rarity, in many cases, is greatly underestimated.

For that matter their artistic value is in many cases unappreciated, too, even though their decorativeness and quality of design are in many cases comparable with landscape paintings of the same period.

There are many different forms of map collecting. The newcomer can specialise in road maps, atlases, the work of specific cartographers, maps of *particular counties or countries,* maps of military engagements, sea charts and so on.

Map collections formed on a particular theme are always more valuable than collections formed haphazardly and it pays to pursue a theme as far as you can go. Map collecting is an international market, but the main collecting areas are Northern Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Some examples of price movements over the past decade are listed in the table, but beware the excellent modern-day reproductions turned out in Italy and Holland. Reproductions should sell at under £10 each, but because they are sometimes produced on authentic old paper, are expertly hand-coloured and embody impressive-looking plate marks, they are sometimes passed off as the real McCoy—which makes them forgeries.

As to "condition," old maps should show a crisp printing impression, free from plate blemishes. Creases do not matter, but the paper should be dry. They should be stored at a reasonable temperature and will tolerate normal daylight. If framed and hung on the wall they should be mounted properly so that the glass is kept clear of the map's surface.

Mapmaker	Item	1965	1975
Herman Moll (1688-1745)	The World Described (Atlas)	£200	£2,000
Joan Blaeu (17th-century)	County Map	£15	£75
Robert Morden (17th-century)	County Map	£3	£30
John Speed (1552-1629)	County Map	£25	£250
Christopher Saxton (1542-1611)	County Map	£25	£250
John Ogilby (1600-1676)	Road Atlas	£300	£2,000
Greenville Collins (17th-century)	Sea Chart	£5	£60

Michael Thompson-Noel

Banknotes a growth sector

ƎN THE vigour and che with which the art ket at large has taken to osom such eccentric fields ecialised endeavour as the ng and selling of Victorian writers and other knick-ks, it seems strange that phily—the study and col-ng of paper money—should remained, until the last years, an obscure collector y with only a handful of wers.

et things are changing, and signs are that paper money d soon become one of the market's brightest growth ors. At present, even some he rarest banknotes still ge hands at under £1,000, hat investors will be on to ry good thing if in the next years notaphily spreads and s. At present it has only w thousand followers, com-d with the hundreds of sands who collect stamps or s.

part from their obvious ities with stamps—bank-s are small, portable paper cts of high value and inter-onal interest—old banknotes a number of less obvious ctions.

s Colin Narbeth, managing ctor of Stanley Gibbons ency, points out, they are n legitimate works of art in r own right. Paper money invariably been designed by finest engravers available, the simple reason that ers of notes wanted to out-k the forgers. In addition, gns were made attractive use the issuers wished to suade the public at large to pt their notes instead of s. Only in recent years has arch begun to unearth e of the famous engravers lved.

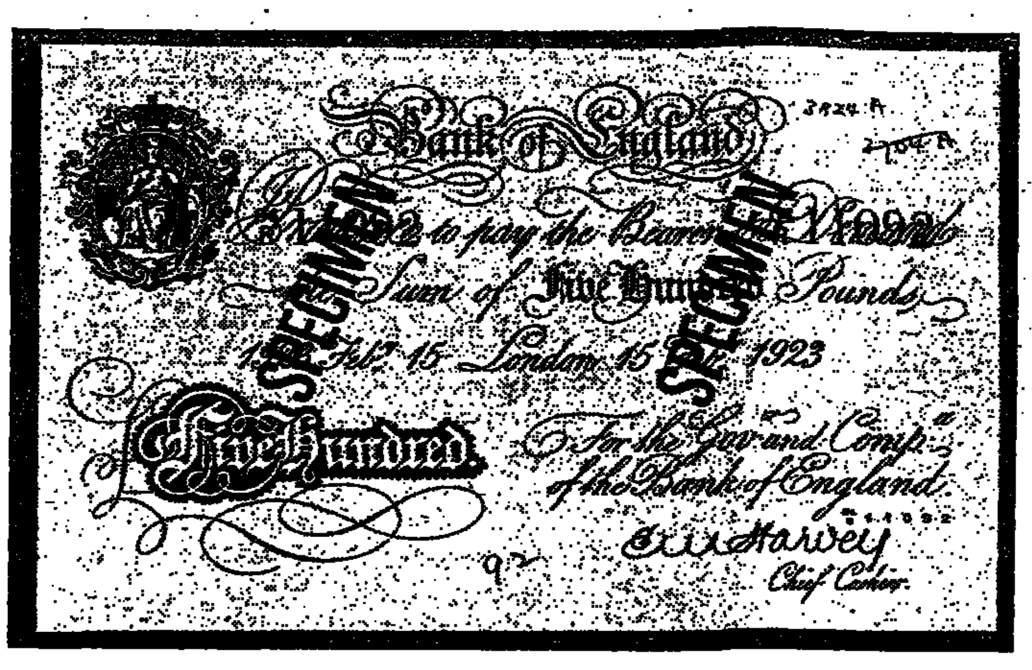
econd, banknotes are invariably of historical interest. Early notes were usually introduced during states of emergency: revolutions, wars, natural disasters.

According to Colin Narbeth, a good example of notaphily's potential growth is provided by the series of notes issued during the Boer War, for there are accurate records of the exact amount of notes issued. The most common of the notes issued by Kruger from Pretoria (May 28, 1900) were the £1 second type, which one catalogue recently priced at only £2.50 in circulated condition and £15 in extremely fine condition. Yet only 11,000 of these notes were issued.

If we now go to the scarcest note in the set, the £100 note, we find that only 800 were issued and that catalogues in 1972 were listing it at only £40 in circulated condition. Even if all 800 notes still exist, which is highly improbable, their value is bound to soar once they are absorbed by the collecting world.

Interesting

As a matter of fact, the third and last issue of Kruger notes is by far the most interesting. These notes are known as the "Te Velde" series and were issued by the military in the field. President Kruger had been ousted from all major towns and this last issue was produced at Pilgrim's Rest, a small mining town in the Eastern Transvaal. They were fairly crude because of the circumstances of their issue. They were printed on school exercise books, complete with lines, and a small portable press was operated by the same men who in better times had minted Kruger's gold coinage.



A £500 note bearing the signature of Bank of England Chief Cashier Ernest Musgrave Harvey fetched £1,250 at auction in September.

The most produced of any one note was 6,500 (the £1, dated May 1, 1902) but most issues were down to a few hundred of each. Even so, 18 to 24 months ago these notes were still catalogued at under £100 each, and obviously represent a sound buy to anyone who believes that interest in old banknotes will flourish. The same, in turn, can be said for an immense range of other banknotes of the world.

The astute investor will obviously attempt to discover an area which is at present unpopular and buy up the material cheaply in the hope that he will eventually find himself sitting on a goldmine.

But there are traps for the unwary. Except in a few cases it is pointless looking for investment growth among the Notgeld issues produced in towns and cities in Germany during and following the first world war. Some towns produced new sets not because more notes were needed but to satisfy the collectors' market.

With more than 100,000 individual issues in existence—eventually factories, shops and even police stations were producing them—the Reichbank finally stepped in and prevented further issues by law. As a general rule, notes that were issued for the benefit of the collectors' market and not for circulating as currency should be avoided, particularly when they exist in vast quantities.

On the other hand a banknote does not have to be old to be valuable. Many notes of the second world war, including the prisoner-of-war issues from camps like Buchenwald and Theresienstadt, are valued for their scarcity and interest, and hundreds of different notes were produced by guerilla forces in the Philippines.

Probably the rarest of all the second world war issues is the famous 2k of the German occupation of the Ukraine. The remainder of the set, including the high denominations, are still relatively inexpensive but the 2k sells at well over £1,000—and for a very good reason.

The train carrying the consignment of 2k's was attacked by partisans, blown up, and the notes scattered. German military retaliation was swift and thorough and the 2k withdrawn before it had officially been put in circulation. Notes scattered by the railside were picked up and burnt and the area combed for partisans. Anyone remotely thought to have been involved was executed. To date, only two of these notes have come to light but experts in Germany believe it possible that a total of five survived.

For those who wish to specialise in British banknotes, there is a wide choice, including the Bank of England's notes: the Treasury series (much sought after are the famous Arabic overprint notes issued to British soldiers during the Dardanelles campaign); Scottish notes (the most colourful and attractive of all); Irish notes (at present out of favour and thus inexpensive), and the full range of notes issued by the private and joint stock banks, of which at one time there were more than 900 in operation.

The authorised note circulation for some of these private banks was tiny—4,572 for the Bath City Bank (founded 1819), for example, 3,201 for the Bury St Edmunds Bank (1844), and 4,551 for the Norfolk and Suffolk Bank. If you come across one of these notes in the loft or the attic—cherish it.

Michael Thompson-Noel

Early stamps a good buy

ILE OTHER sectors of the art market—Chinese porce- and Dutch 19th century ures, for example, have had r setbacks in the last two rs, stamps have moved dily ahead, making them, g with coins, the best buy anyone wishing to combine excitment of collecting with solid advantage of an reciating investment.

here are reasons for the m in philately that the np dealers and auction cialists only allude to, such the ease with which stamps be smuggled across borders; re are others, such as the ernational interest in stamps ich underpins the market pite crises in specific ntries, which are more ntionable.

n addition stamps are small, ich makes it easier to protect m from theft, and they are t of a large and fluid rket so that the investor can ckly and conveniently buy d sell them anywhere in the rld.

So stamp prices, or rather prices for the rare and sirable stamps, rise inexor-ly, with speculation from the wealthy (who are reluctant to hold depreciating money) now fuelling the genuine demand of collectors. Fortunately for the stamp trade the oil rich Arabs have yet to show much interest in stamps. Heavy buying on their part could push prices up to over-rarefied heights.

As it is an American collector paid £116,666 at auction last year for the 1 cent British Guinea of 1856, and higher prices still might have been paid in private deals. Such prices capture the imagination (and Stanley Gibbons, the largest stamp operation in the world, maintains that wise investment in stamps should concentrate on classic stamps issued pre-1900), but the beauty of stamps is that there are artistic and commercial gains to be made at every price level, from £1 upwards.

At Stanley Gibbons they will tell you that the expense in packaging a £2 pack of stamps is greater than its reward, and it would often be cheaper for the company just to hand out the most common stamps, but the keen boy collector of to-day becomes the experienced fanatic of middle age. Mr. Maxwell Joseph, who has one of the most valuable stamp collections in the country, including the world's best group of Cape of Good Hope, first became interested as a boy.

The great bulk of the stamp market is in the middle price range. Robson Lowe, which claims to be the largest stamp auction house, with a world wide turnover of over £2.5m. last season, reckons that the average price of a lot sold at one of its sales is just under £80.

Buying stamps at auction may seem the simplest method, but some preparation is needed. Before attending your first sale you should notify the auction house so they can check on references. Alternatively you can bid by post, completing a form before the sale on the basis of the catalogue which will contain estimates of the likely price of the lot. Usually these days the stamps go for above the auction houses' forecast.

The auctions generally concentrate on stamps from one country or region, but there are general sales where you can buy a mixed lot, sort out the stamps you are really interested in and then get the auctioneer to sell off the remainder.

The dispute as to whether to sell and buy stamps at auction or through dealers is best resolved personally. Stanley Gibbons tends to buy stamps direct that it knows it can find a ready market for, and advises the seller to put the rest of the collection into auction, where it offers a six year guarantee on the genuineness of the stamp to the eventual purchaser.

Auctions are perhaps preferable if you want to realise the investment value of your stamps quickly. These days the main London auction houses, Robson Lowe, Harmers and Stanley Gibbons, hold so many sales abroad that they can select the best overseas locations, be it Basle, Bermuda, or Frankfurt, to ensure the highest possible price for particular collecions. For most collectors concentrate their efforts on one country, and a sale in the relevant country, or nearby, usually improves the price.

Events at auctions can often surprise the experts. Stanley Gibbons recently acquired an extremely rare stamp, of which only one other was in the country, and that in the Queen's collection. It approached a collector it knew to be interested and offered the stamp at £30,000. The collector refused and the stamp was auctioned. It went for £50,000. Auctions are the most visible barometer of the stamp trade and recent experiences have been encouraging. A Scandinavian sale organised by Robson Lowe almost doubled its forecast, and in the three months of this season this auction house has already added £250,000 in extra sales over the comparable period of 1974.

One of the attractions of stamp collecting, apart from the wide range of prices to suit all pockets is the ease with which collectors out-of-town can invest. Most of the big dealers organise investment services. At Stanley Gibbons a minimum of £500 is required, but Warwick and Warwick the Rugby based auction house, will invest in stamps on your behalf with a minimum of £100.

The company points out that a £10,000 investment in rare stamps in 1966 could now be worth £64,800, and quotes examples of the appreciations. An Australia 1913 £1 and £2 which would have sold for £95 in 1966 could now sell for £725 (and Warwick and Warwick actually forecast a 1976 price of £925): a Rhodesia 1898-1908 £5 and £10 selling for £21 nine years ago might make £600; a GB 1840 2d has risen from £110 to £600; and a Ireland 1922 2/6-10/- has moved from £21 to £298.

Acquiring a collection for investment is rather a soulless business, since the auction house buys the stamps at its sales. It makes the decisions — and does not charge. Bidding with investors' money obviously ensures a good market at its sales, and the company also likes to think that the investor will sell again through it, when it will gain a 15 per cent. selling commission. Stamps in the past decade have justified this mercenary approach, but most dealers expect, and prefer, the buyer to have some knowledge of and interest in the subject.

Stanley Gibbons, for example, warns newcomers to the subject against going over-board on modern stamps. They usually take many years to appreciate. There is also a warning against investing in modern "errors" on stamps—they tend to be too common to be valuable. There is also little likelihood of finding a great rarity in your attic these days—their numbers are generally known and accounted for, but the demand at this top end of the market far exceeds supply, so keep looking.

Anyone tracing trends in what is still an open and prosperous market might consider rare stamps on envelopes. A good postmark, or an interesting envelope, can greatly appreciate the value of quite common stamps, and solicitors offices and bank vaults might contain old correspondence which would fetch high prices in the market.

Antony Thorncroft

A very rare unused tete-beche pair of the King George V 1d. Bright Scarlet stamp of 1912-22, sold in October for £3,000. A similar pair sold in 1966 made £200.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1975

Parliament reopens

THE LAST session of Parliament having been prolonged to tidy up unfinished business—with conspicuous lack of success in the case of the industrial legislation which the Lords threw out as a potential threat to freedom of the Press and which is now to be brought forward again—the new session has begun without a break. The Queen's Speech, in which the Government's main proposals are outlined, contained little that had not already been foreshadowed but was no more popular for that. Apart from another heavy burden of legislation, which will affect all members, the Conservative opposition is particularly incensed at Mrs. Castle's decision to press ahead with her plans for separating private medical practice from the National Health Service: a number of Labour backbenchers are unhappy about the absence of any reference to nationalisation of all ports: and the Scottish Nationalists are up in arms about the fact that the devolution of authority to Scottish and Welsh assemblies, though it will certainly be much discussed during the present session of Parliament, will probably not be the subject of legislation until the next.

Profitability

So far as the work of the National Enterprise Board and the use of planning agreements is concerned, there is little to be done except wait and see what use the Government makes of this machinery in practice. The replacement of Mr. Benn by Mr. Varley and the formation of a common front by the Department of Industry and the Treasury is at least a considerable improvement on the prospect as it seemed only a few months ago. Moreover, there is no reason to doubt that Messrs. Healey and Varley meant what they said at the NEDC meeting at which the practice of tripartite discussions between Government, CBI and TUC was resumed, that the strengthening of the country's industrial base must take priority over other aims and that this implied a higher level of profitability in the private sector of industry.

The fact that price control is not being immediately dropped, as the CBI would like, is almost certainly due to the need to make some such gesture to keep the present voluntary ceiling on pay increases (which is the immediate cause of Mrs. Castle's dispute with the junior hospital doctors) in effective operation. The latest indices of earnings suggest that the growth of disposable income is still decelerating faster than that of prices, and there may well be a still tighter squeeze on living standards by the spring. If restraint is to hold and agreement to be reached about what should happen next August—the Chief Secretary has suggested this week that the next stage will have to be at least as tough as the present — some continued intervention in the field of pricing may be thought unavoidable.

Local spending

Two of the more important economic developments of the week, however, have nothing directly to do with the contents of the Queen's Speech and are not likely to be completely unwelcome to the business community. The first is the announcement yesterday by the Government of the size of the rate support grant for next year and the imposition of a cash limit on the total size of the Government's contribution to local government expenditure. This has always been an area of the economy in which the central Government finds it especially difficult to control expenditure. It does now, however, seem to have had a considerable measure of success in braking the growth of expenditure, and Mr. Crosland's speech about housing this week—in which the main emphasis was put heavily on the need to make better use of the existing stock —suggests that he means to keep the brake on for some time to come.

The second development, which follows the recent meeting between leaders of the main industrialised countries about economic policy, is that the Government now seems likely to impose temporary import restrictions soon on some goods which are being sold in this country at prices which threaten the future existence of the domestic industries involved. Such restrictions will be inflationary and must carry some risk of retaliation. It is essential, therefore, that they be applied only in a few cases where a clear argument in their favour can be made out and that they have a time-limit set on them.

IMPORT CONTROLS

Suitable cases for treatment?

THIS WEEK-END, with the Rambouillet summit and the Queen's Speech both out of the way, the item almost certainly taken home for consideration by Government Ministers is the question of selective import controls.

For more than a year the textile industry has been calling for controls to limit the continuing influx of imports, particularly from low wage countries. To its pleas have been added those of other industries, the TUC and Labour MPs. The motor industry, as well as facing up to strong competition from the Continent, has had to contend with the singular attention paid to the U.K. market by the Japanese. In footwear, there has been a surge of shoes coming in from Comecon countries, while in electrical appliances, another sector pressing for controls, it has been Japanese competition again threatening the survival of some sectors of the U.K. industry, notably television tube manufacture.

The problems have been spotlighted for much of this year, and a good deal longer in some cases. Yet it is only recently that Ministers have let it be known that controls were being considered, and next week is expected to provide some action.

The Government's reluctance so far stems partly from fears of retaliation. There is also Britain's sense of commitment to the under-developed countries, already badly hit by imported inflation and higher energy costs.

In addition, there is a problem of interpretation over the significance of the imports surge. In some areas it is clear that U.K. companies are under pressure not from low cost producers in the Far East but from more efficient competitors in the EEC. In others, the problem is evidently one of consumer choice. Customers presented with readily available U.K. goods and readily available imported goods are going for the latter, not because they are much cheaper but because they are considered to be better designed, more reliable or otherwise more desirable.

Thus the Government has to balance the danger that some sectors of the economy will be destroyed by unfair competition with the need to avoid action which will shore up less efficient producers to the ultimate disadavantage of the consumer and industry itself. On top of this, Britain, as a member of the EEC, is now much less free to take unilateral action to control imports. Hence the Government has sought to deal with demands for import controls through EEC machinery, as in the case of textiles.

In the meantime, the Go ment has clearly been ho that demand will pick up ciently around the worl release some of the pre on the U.K. market. change in policy at this would seem to indicate Ministers, in spite of the mistic tone of the commun which came out of the bouillet summit, remain tical about an early recc and also believe that the is sufficiently different ir degree of import penetr and the sources of that pen tion to justify stepping ou line from the rest of the

Rhys Da

TRENDS IN U.K. TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975 1st qtr.	1975 2nd qtr.
Consumers' expenditure index	100	102.7	108.8	113.9	113.6	115.8	113.6
Textile production index ...	100	100.7	103	108.6	100.4	92.6	92.3
TEXTILES							
Imports (£m.)	273	345	399	556	750	178.1	177.6
Exports (£m.)	464.2	487.6	521.7	705.3	890.7	196.5	213.5
Trade balance (£m.)	191.2	143	122.8	149.6	140.5	18.46	35.89
Employment ('000)	667*	581	558	555	545	510	504
CLOTHING							
Imports (£m.)	129.4	178.2	218.8	333.5	402.4	111.0	125.1
Exports (£m.)	123.1	129.5	144.3	179.6	230	52.46	54.77
Trade balance (£m.)	−6	−48.7	−74.5	−154	−172.4	−58.55	−70.29
Employment ('000)	377*	338	338	332	321	315	311

* Basis for calculation different from succeeding years
Source: Textile Statistics Bureau

U.K. CAR IMPORTS (%)

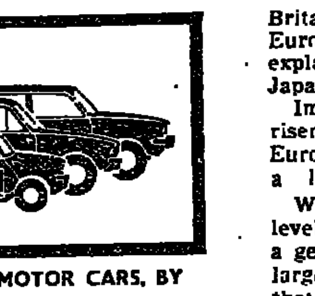
TABLE 1

	U.K.	France	W.Germany	Italy	Japan	U.S
1970	14.3	11.8	22.5	31.1	0.8	14.
1971	19.3	20.7	25.0	30.2	0.8	15.
1972	23.5	20.7	26.2	31.0	0.9	14.
1973	27.4	20.8	25.9	30.0	1.3	15.
1974	27.9	17.7	26.7	27.9	2.0	16.
1975	33.0 (9 mths)	24.3 (7 mths)	26.4 (8 mths)	31.0 (6 mths)	1.6 (8 mths)	20. (7 mt

JAPANESE MARKET SHARES (%)

TABLE 2

	U.K.	France	Germany	Ital
1973	5.6	0.7	1.1	0.
1974	6.7	0.8	1.3	0.
1975 (same periods as table 1)	9.4	1.4	1.6	0.



MOTOR CARS, BY TERRY DODSWORTH

IN THE motor industry the high level of imports is a relatively recent phenomenon. Until the late 1960s, Britain had the most chauvinistic car-buying public in Europe. Thus in 1965 imports took 4.9 per cent. of U.K. car sales against 11.2 per cent. of the West German market, 14.7 per cent. of France's, and 15.0 per cent. of Italy's. At that time, too, it is noteworthy that the U.S. also was a relatively well-protected market, with imports accounting for only 6.1 per cent. of it.

Although imports to Britain from almost all sources during the last four years have increased, the most significant feature has been the growth in Japanese car sales. This holds true even though there is some force behind Japanese importers' complaints that they are having to bear the whole blame for taking sales away from home manufacturers when EEC car companies (sales here in the first nine months of 1975 up from 150,000 to 196,000) and Comecon producers (up from 10,000 to 15,500) have also been expanding their activities.

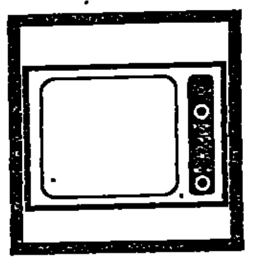
For what the Japanese argument ignores in the case of the EEC is that the creation of the free trade area implies greater reciprocal trading. British car companies have not yet grasped their chance in Europe, and cynics may suggest that they never will; but the decision to enter the EEC is based, among other things, on their eventually doing just that.

In addition, as the tables show, the entire difference between import penetration in Britain and in its major European competitors can be explained in terms of the Japanese share of each market.

Imports in the U.S. have risen broadly in line with the European pattern, though from a lower base.

What is an acceptable level for imports? There seems a general consensus among the large manufacturing nations that 25 per cent. is a reasonable figure. This is believed to be the kind of proportion the Department of Trade would find acceptable here.

A different pattern may emerge again in the 1980s when, assuming world growth resumes, many more nations will emerge as car manufacturers eager to export and, perhaps, import. In the meantime, Japan is a singular oddity, importing only a fraction of its needs. Even by 1985, Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry foresees imports taking only 5 per cent. of the home market, and some influential Japanese industrialists believe there will never be a place for mass family car imports because Japan's competitors will never be able to match its production costs. There is potential here for considerable international argument in the future.



TELEVISIONS, BY LORNE BARLING

COLOUR television sales on the Continent appear to have a far smaller Japanese and other Far Eastern content than in the U.K. But recent figures are misleading because of a number of complex factors. Furthermore, the recent fall in U.K. demand has greatly reduced the imported element in overall sales here.

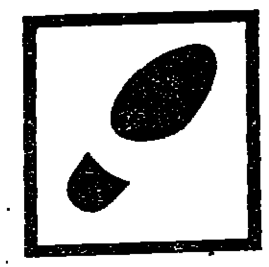
In the first six months of the year the U.K. imported 123,000 sets, of which 71,000 came from Japan and the rest mainly from the Continent, notably Finland and Austria. West Germany, on the other hand, imported 149,000 colour sets, of which 77,000 came from Italy (which has no colour TV service of its own) and 41,000 from Japan. But where the components of those Italian sets came from is not easy to uncover; the figure probably masks a degree of re-exporting. As far as complete sets are concerned, Italy imported a total of 32,000 in the first five months of the year, not all of which could possibly be used within Italy to pick up French or Swiss colour transmissions.

At face value, the U.K.'s trading position in the colour television field is strong, while imports have fallen substantially since 1973 both by absolute volume and in their share of the market.

But it is the content of these sets, particularly the tube (which is the most valuable single part of the receiver), which has caused dismay in the U.K.

The biggest source of colour tube imports is Japan, which last year supplied the U.K. with 763,000 of the 1.3m. tubes used here. In the first six months of 1975 it supplied 262,000, compared with 187,000 bought from the U.S.

Any measures to control tube imports from Japan, the source of only half U.K. imports in the first six months compared with 65 per cent. in 1974, would clearly be criticised on the grounds that they were discriminatory. At the same time, blanket curbs would draw heavy fire from the U.S. and the other EEC countries.



FOOTWEAR, BY ARTHUR SMITH

FOR THE footwear industry, import controls could prove crucial to its very survival. While the U.K. market has remained fairly stable at around 240m. pairs a year, import penetration has soared from 18.5 per cent. in 1965 to 34 per cent. last year and nearly 40 per cent. in the first six months of 1975.

In the face of such foreign competition, the viability of the industry, at least at its present size with a workforce of 78,000, is in question. Some 8,000 jobs have been lost over the past 12 months and 15 per cent. of the industry is currently working short time. The Government is well aware of the threat. At the beginning of the year, the Department of Industry set up a joint study with the trade unions and manufacturers to examine footwear's prospec

The report of the study g is not expected till summer while its brief wide that the implement of any recommendations be time-consuming. The m facturers are arguing that term import controls—t years at the maximum— required to allow the breat space necessary for the i try to re-equip itself to deal foreign competition.

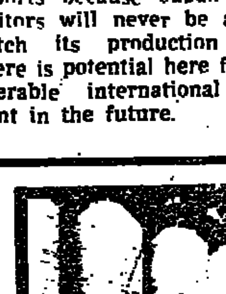
The industry has co trated its campaign for in controls on the low-cost tries of the Far East, espec Hong Kong, and on Comecon bloc, but the pro is far wider. For, while Kong may supply 23 per of the U.K. market by vol its sales are largely of rubber and canvas shoes. value, 60 per cent. of Brit imports come from We Europe. Thus, in the first months of this year, boosted its exports by than £7m. to £28.9m. and supplies one in five of pair of shoes sold in the

So far as Comecon is cerned, the British industry made numerous allegation dumping, especially Czechoslovakia and Polan recent years.

Though the British ind argues that it is a special other EEC countries are being hit by increased in penetration. France, in cular, together with West many and Holland.

Generally, protectionism mounting. The Swedish Go ment, for example, has pl restrictions on imports of and rubber boots.

The fundamental que which the study group exa ing the British industry answer is whether footwe a sector where this cou should retain its manufactu strength. The choice is whe to follow the West Ger example and allow the market to be supplied la from overseas or whethe copy France and re-organise boost the industry to com in foreign markets.



TEXTILES, BY RYHS DAVID

TRADITIONALLY, the highest level of textile imports into the U.K. has been from the Commonwealth, although more recently other sources such as Portugal, with backing from British capital, have become more prominent. The U.K.'s long record of imports has led it to become a prime target for other low cost countries like Taiwan and South Korea seeking to enter the textile arena.

As a result, Britain though the biggest textile and clothing employer in Europe is also well-established as the EEC's biggest importer of textiles, in proportion to gross national product. It took goods to the value of $2.74 for every $1,000 of GNP in 1973 (the latest year for which figures for the whole Community are available). By comparison West Germany's total per $1,000 of GNP was $2.04, that for Italy $0.47 and France $0.46.

The burden which both the U.K. and Germany have been shouldering in accepting vast quantities of textile imports has been recognised in a burden-sharing formula devised by the EEC. It is due to be put into practice alongside the GATT Multi Fibre Arrangement restrictions currently being negotiated with textile suppliers.

The significant feature of the past few months has been the marked surge which has taken place in imports from the low-cost suppliers despite the MFA and after a period earlier in the year when imports seemed to be falling off.

Some of the increase can be attributed to the introduction of quotas designed to limit the growth of imports, as countries have sought to anticipate controls.

As well as having to cope with increased pressure from low-cost countries, the U.K. industry is also finding itself faced with problems of adjusting to EEC competition.

More recently, however, the problem has been the further surge in imports from low-cost countries including Comecon. The situation is thought to be much more serious now than in the summer when the British Textile Confederation put forward a case for an across the board imports cutback of 20 per cent. on last year's levels. A move along these lines rather than further efforts to ensure that the rate of future growth is moderated is therefore seen as essential if large sections of the industry are not to disappear permanently.

Letters to the Editor

Imports

From The Managing Director Tricoville

Sir.—In response to the letters (November 18) from Mr. Michael Noble, MP, Mr. J. Doltis, and Mr. Sussman, we believe that the strong opposition by some importers of fashionwear to the existing and anticipated quota and import restrictions remains very much misunderstood.

We understand very well that certain British manufacturers of yarn fabrics, shirts and shoes, for example, are suffering from very low cost imports which in a number of cases are tantamount to dumping. We also realise that to obtain protection against goods being dumped in this country is a very lengthy and difficult procedure. There may, therefore, be a valid case for import restrictions of one form or another to enable such manufacturers to survive through the present depression and expand their business when things begin to improve.

We consider that "textiles" cover very many different facets of industry and the imposition of blanket import controls such as we anticipate being announced very shortly for Taiwan may give some protection to those industries suffering from low cost imports, but will nevertheless do irreparable harm to those companies that have built up a business importing specialised types of fashionwear for which there is no adequate production capacity in this country.

It is supposed by some, that firms such as ours, only import because we can land the goods cheaper than by having them made in this country, yet repeated efforts on our part to have goods produced in this country have shown that while prices may not infrequently be competitive the capacity to produce and the "hunger" for business is simply not there.

For example, there is no production in this country of fully fashioned double knit garments of the type in which a handful of importers have specialised for many years. Another of our companies sends dress fabrics to Hong Kong, there to be cut and made up into high quality ladies dresses, and these are then brought back into Britain. This expensive and exhaustive exercise is not performed for the fun of it, but simply because it is extremely difficult to find contractors in the British dress manufacturing industry prepared to produce better quality dresses which our customers require.

The sad fact is that the vast majority of manufacturers want to produce the plainest possible garments requiring the least amount of work in the largest possible continuous production runs. An examination of the advertisements for outworkers in the trade journals will reveal that even in this area there is no surplus capacity.

Our fear is that the continual lobbying for protection both by the unions and by various textile manufacturing associations may cause the government Minister responsible for import restrictions to overlook the fact that only certain sections of the textile and clothing manufacturing industry really deserve or require protection.

Edward Kessly,
Tricoville,
91-93 Great Portland Street,
W.1.

Pensions

From Mr D. Franklin

Sir.—May we consider present sharp changes in the social stratification of the retired in terms of fact not prejudice?

The national retirement pension, just raised to £691 p.a. plus £113 p.a. recent extra tax relief to some old people whose total incomes do not materially exceed the national average wage, to-day provide only bare necessities for the single person. On them may be built income derived from previous work. Most fortunate are those with pensions somehow tied to present high-money-salary levels. The second group much larger, have pensions tied to the retail price index; including, belatedly Crown pensioners. Inevitably there is delay in adjustment, and a time-lag of one year coupled with inflation has meant steeply diminishing standards for this group for some years past; however next month, owing to large price increases there is hope of adjustment. Group three are people dependent on fixed money pensions, various sorts of life annuity, and dividends derived from their savings; the last limited to very low maximum increases largely offset by higher taxation. Conversion of capital to income is only possible on very poor terms. Few already retired are in a position to reinvest in any newly-devised index-linked security. In practice there are people with every possible mix between the above statuses.

In some spheres, notably public employment and banks, salaries during the past few years have risen much faster than the price index; consequently people now retiring are far better off than those who left identical jobs 5 or 10 or 20 years ago. Some incomes in group III quickly become vulnerable to investment income surcharge. Yet others in Group I and II may receive many times as much without incurring it. Because supplementary benefits take account of savings the income of many on basic pension only is built up above that of marginal members of Group III.

Resentment against index-linked increases above £6 per week is understandable. In fact they apply not only to Civil Servants but also to those who retired from nationalised industries, armed forces, teaching, hospitals and local government: but in all these spheres, and whatever the date of retirement, a larger sum could only apply to a rather limited number of people who had reached posts considerably above average level.

Members of Parliament and trade unions might explain why a retiring person providing savings for his old age should be subject to the wealth tax, while the equivalent capital value of a pension (perhaps that of a trade union member or official) must be exempt. Further, if £6 per week is to be considered a minimum as well as a maximum rise, most people in Group III seem entitled to compensation in shape of large extra tax reliefs instead of investment income surcharges. The Minister responsible nevertheless ignores the point, that female Crown pensioners are still paid in relation to their previous salaries, and require a supplement to bring them up to the standard of male colleagues.

If asked, most retired people are likely to say that they would simply prefer to be left in the same position as before in relation to their contemporaries and the community around them. As you become older, it is increasingly embarrassing to lose your friends because some are made so much better off, others so much worse off, than yourself. It isn't easy to move house and make adjustments in response to sharp change in your standard of living. They would ask politicians of all parties and bureaucrats to leave them in peace and not to treat them as defenceless guineapigs for exploitation of various social theories.

Douglas W. Franklin.
Dhoon Plat,
Maughold,
Ramsey,
Isle of Man.

Squeezed

From Mr. J. Rowlands

Sir.—Mr. Scott's reply (November 17) to the points raised in Professor Haselden's letter "Squeezed at both ends," surely is an indication of the exact attitudes that face young engineers and middle management in industry to-day. He attempts to decimate the points raised by bringing out the big guns of ICI, Joseph Lucas etc., as examples of well managed companies, to humiliate and ignore the points raised by the engineer who, aside from complaining about his company, is also showing great concern for the situation he sees existing.

I see Mr. Scott's rebuke that the engineer in question would have benefited from a course in human relations, and more or less saying he is wet behind the ears, as incredible coming from a man who is supposedly an expert on human relations himself. As for Mr. Scott's point that the professor is arguing from the particular to the general, he himself appears to regard the engineer who wrote to Professor Haselden as the man causing the trouble: he argues against him (specific), and makes no remarks worthy of note on this very commonly held (general) view Professor Haselden mentions. A great many sober people in middle management, who want to get on with their jobs hold the same view.

With both ends playing politics, the middle is not a very comfortable place to be sometimes.

J. P. Rowlands,
31 Hollybank Road,
Hythe, Southampton,
Hampshire.

Patriarch

From Mr. P. Harrington.

Sir.—Mr. Wordie does not do his "ancestor," the Clipper Patriarch, full justice (November 15). To weather forecasting and radio communication must be added a hand-picked crew, no passengers or cargo to consider, and the benefit of modern alloys and materials. The place of the "Patriarch," however, is secure in the history of sail, and I am sure that given the above advantages Great Britain would have only seen her stern for a short while leaving the Thames and found her waiting in Sydney.

P. F. Harrington
21, Wilfred Gardens,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics.

Capitalism

From Mr. R. Finlay

Sir,—In his letter debating the merits of capitalism (November 17), Mr. Berriman refers to the "faceless" absentee shareholders, and questions their right to legal direction and ownership of large enterprises. He conjures up an Alice in Wonderland world where state enterprises compete vigorously among themselves, equity subscribers happily invest their savings for a fixed return which diminishes with inflation, and large motor car manufacturing companies are stimulated by the control of eager public servants.

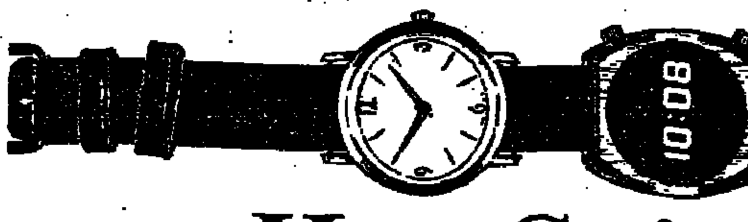
This country has come a long way from the Victorian concept of "take care of the pennies (d not p) and the pounds will take care of themselves," but as world competition increases, necessity will dictate a return to it. The role of the savers is legally recognised, but is long overdue for public moral recognition. Over the last 15 years, equity owners have received a steadily declining share of the trading surplus and legal ownership has had little meaning except on a winding up. Since the world does not owe everyone a living, it is surely hard to argue that control should reside anywhere else than in the hands of those who commit their capital and enterprise to commercial production.

It is a great pity that in this country, so little attempt has been made to teach basic economics at an early age. Successful enterprise and our standard of living depend upon an understanding that labour is only one of the important factors of production, and that the future depends upon the successful co-ordination of labour, land, capital and enterprise. The idea that one factor should be freely rewarded whilst the others are restrained, must surely be unproductive in the long run.

There has never been any practical evidence that the state can achieve co-ordination as well as those who pioneer and back the risk. Saving and investment are a matter of temperament, not class. As Mr. Ireson argues (November 19) industrial democracy needs a better flow of information, though in my opinion, it seems unlikely that it can be provided solely through newspapers, professional or otherwise. Radio and TV should be a very important means of introducing industrial leaders to their employees and the public at large: at times when periodic figures are announced, they should have the opportunity to speak of their company's achievements and aims. Broadcasting needs a complete re-orientation in this respect, and if necessary the BBC's charter should be amended despite the practical difficulties and dangers.

A proper understanding of capitalism will come much more readily once it is appreciated that the only alternative is harsher control through the tax collector and an enlarged bureaucracy. In the final analysis, and assuming that we all want our standards of living to be maintained, it makes little difference whether a man is made redundant by a gentleman from Detroit, or a Government agent. What needs to be considered is which system makes it the more likely.

R. J. B. Finlay,
The Dormy House,
Wentworth,
Virginia Water, Surrey.



Switzerland makes up for lost time • • •

How Swiss watchmakers are facing up to the challenge of the electronic watch

JOHN WICKS REPORTS FROM ZURICH

· SWITZERLAND missed boat in regard to the ·ges now going on in watch nology? The past few years · seen the start of what 1 be a revolution in an stry traditionally regarded Switzerland's special pre- ɜ with the development of ɔer cent. electronic watches. the Swiss, though :unners in the initial moves r from traditional mechani- timepieces, are scarcely ·esented in this fast-growing ket.

rtainly the Swiss industry been having a lean time ntly, not least because of bstantial decline in overall d demand and because the s franc has been floating nprecedented heights. In first nine months of this , the country exported some n. watches and movements, per cent. down on a year re. By value, there was 8.4 per cent. drop to under 'rs.1.88bn. (£291.7m.). Vir- y all producers are ted; short-time working is spread; and profits are ping fast. While some ·ovement does seem to be he way, 1975 will be one he industry's worst years. netheless, Switzerland's h-makers continue to inate the world market, around 38 per cent. of all sales (of a world-wide uction of 230m. watches movements last year, zerland made 88m.), and · products retain much of · traditional prestige. At time, too, Switzerland could n to be well up in the inter- ɔnal market for watches of post-mechanical era. With so-called first generation of ric / electronic watches, a battery replacing the ıspring, and the second ration — the tuning-fork ·h—Switzerland's share of d production is in line with ·hare of the overall watch ket.

e third generation, the motor-plus-quartz watch, was unveiled in prototype form in Switzerland, by the Centre Electronique Horloger, a joint venture of the Fédération Horlogère and the Ebauches division of the Asuag group, in Neuchâtel. Here, however, Switzerland's share of total world output is now below that 38 per cent. mark. And the fourth generation, the solid-state model which is the first 100 per cent. electronic watch, was developed and introduced in the U.S.—which is to-day far and away its biggest single manufacturer.

How serious American success here will prove to be for the Swiss—and, indeed, for the Japanese and Russians, whose respective watch production also exceeds that of the U.S.—depends on the development of the electronic-watch market. Forecasts vary wildly. The magazine *Business Week* recently predicted that output of solid-state watches alone would rise from 3m. or so this year to 85m by 1980. But in Switzerland, Mr. René Retornaz, director of the trade association, Fédération Horlogère, feels this estimate to be vastly exaggerated. More realistic might be the forecast of Dr. Kurt Hübner, technical director of Ebauches Electroniques, who, a year ago, said the market was growing more slowly than originally expected, with electric and electronic models of all types likely to account for between 30m. and 50m. units out of a total world output of 300m. in 1980 with 13m. (4 per cent.) digital display quartz models.

What is certain is that at present the most advanced watches are very much a matter for the U.S. market, not least because America is their leading manufacturer—a result of the presence there of numerous electronics concerns able easily to produce such components as integrated circuits. U.S. companies like Fairchild, Hughes, Texas Instruments or National Semiconductor are much better placed here than any traditional watch maker.

Furthermore the American consumer tends to be much less conservative about novelties like digital read-out than his European counterpart. On top of this, over 30 per cent. of U.S. watch sales are via department stores, chain stores and mail order; in Europe, almost all sales are through conventional retailers wary of repair problems, the lack of well-known brand names and what, to a certain extent, they feel to be insufficient sales arguments.

So the U.S. will probably remain the biggest single outlet for electronic watches for years to come, even though Japanese sales are growing and France—where Lip is now introducing the "Novus" brand of National Semiconductor—is also expected to be on the way up.

Even if, as Mr. Jaul Tschudin Ebauches' vice - president, believes, the rest of the world simply does not find the digital watch as exciting as America does, the Swiss industry is not indifferent to the challenge and wants to expand in this sector. The U.S. has been taking about a quarter of Switzerland's total watch exports, but sales to America in the first nine months of this year were 47.1 per cent. down in volume terms with a 39.5 per cent. fall by value. At the same time Japanese makers now starting electronic watch production are already building up good distribution systems in the U.S.

The Swiss are contemplating participation in U.S. production in some cases. Links between American integrated-circuit manufacturers and Swiss watchmakers are likely, with the Swiss providing the brand name, the styling, and distribution facilities. Styling in particular is an area where the Swiss feel there is a lot to be done for the solid-state watch, which they consider too large, too thick and not necessarily easy in digital read-out. But are the Swiss doing too little, and too late, with regard to electronic watches?

At present, Swiss production of all four generations of electric and electronic watches is only about 1.2m. units a year. Battery watches of the first generation account for 80 per cent. of these; 12 per cent. are tuning-fork models; and only 8 per cent. third and fourth generation watches and movements. The fourth generation alone accounts for only 25,000 units a year, or a little over 2 per cent. Now there are plans to increase overall output sharply, with a rising share of motor-plus-quartz and solid-state watches in particular.

Indeed a fair amount has already been spent in electronic R and D, as is clear from the development of the third-generation watch by the Centre Electronique Horloger. The Ebauches division of the Asuag group, one of the partners in the Centre, is itself planning to spend up to Sw.Fr.100m. (£15.5m.) over the next five years in a production facility for micro-electronics at Marin, Canton Neuchâtel. It will use the integrated-circuit technology of the Hughes group of the U.S. under an agreement signed earlier this year with Hughes Aircraft Company.

Société des Garde-Temps, already closely linked to the U.S. through its subsidiaries Waltham and Elgin, is, Mr. Blum its president says, prepared to enter into a co-operative agreement with an electronics concern to make up for the technological gap. Longines, a subsidiary of General Watch, of Bienne, this month nearly doubled its capital, a major reason being plans in the electronic sector.

Société Suisse pour l'Industrie Horlogère, a big group also based at Bienne, produces electronic watches with its subsidiary SSIH-Quartz and has stakes in the German circuit manufacturer, Eurosil, and the U.S. company Optel, as well as purchasing modules from Time Computer of the U.S. Girard-Perregaux, Mondaine Watch and Nepro Watch among other Swiss watch companies all turn out electronic models using purchased components.

Swiss undertakings are also showing increasing interest in the component field. In Zurich, Faselec—a joint venture of Philips and a number of Swiss industrial and watch companies including Brown Boveri, Landis and Gyr, the Bührle group, Ebauches and the Féderation Horlogère — produces integrated circuits for third-generation watches and carries out research; because, however, of what it calls the "uncertainty of the market," it has significantly not yet decided to start on circuits for solid-state products. Brown Boveri itself manufactures fourth generation watch display systems, which it sells to both Swiss and Japanese customers, while the Hoffmann-La Roche chemical company of Basle is also active in the liquid-crystal field.

An important move came on Thursday with the formation in La Chaux-de-Fonds, a new company, Horelec, by a group of Swiss watch industry groups and individual companies. Intended as a grouping of all watch industry undertakings engaged in the production and distribution of electronic timepieces—though it also includes the watch-case manufacturer, Gramex—Horelec aims to supplement its members' research and development facilities and their "technical infrastructure." The new undertaking says it will be able to do this once Swiss or foreign partners are found able to guarantee supplies of necessary components and "adjust to the frequent fluctuations in demand."

The feeling in Switzerland is that progress in the electronic sector is possible and desirable —even if it is not a panacea for all ills—and that this is most likely to be carried out on a co-operative basis. It does seem that international co-operation is necessary here; the Swiss and Japanese are already working with U.S. electronics groups, which are themselves having integrated circuits produced for them in countries like Taiwan, Korea and Singapore.

The Swiss also know pretty well who their competitors are and will be in the electronic watch field. Outside the U.S., where Swiss experts expect a decline rather than an increase in the number of solid-state watch manufacturers, only Japan appears to be in the running, again with a limited number of watch companies such as Seiko, Citizen and Ricoh, and electronics groups like Casio Computer and Eiko Business Machines. There are other projects, like the planned watch plant of Korea Semiconductor or the experimental electronics models of the Soviet watch industry, but these do not add up to much on a world basis.

As for prices, there are signs that the decline will not be as massive as that for mini-computers and calculators. The first and second generation watches appear to have found their natural price levels. There has been a sharp fall in the prices of the more advanced models but these remain relatively high and cheapness does not look like becoming a major sales argument in the future; apart from sales of distressed goods, only a few brands of solid-state watches are offered at much below $80-$100 (£39-£48) on the U.S. market.

For all these reasons, though Switzerland may have been a late starter where the solid-state digital watch is concerned, the country's watchmakers are confident about their future.

WORLD PRODUCTION (m. units)†

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Switzerland	71.6	73.6	72.3	78.2	85.2	88.8
Japan	21.3	23.8	24.3	25.4	28	32.4
USSR	20.5	21.7	23.3	24.5	25	25.5
U.S.	17.7	19.4	21.5	21.8	22.1	23.7
France	10.6	10.9	12.5	14.1	15.8	16.7
W. Germany	8.3	8.4	7.9	9.2	9.7	8.7
E. Germany	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	4
China	—	—	—	—	5.7	6.7
Italy	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.5
Portugal	—	—	—	1.3	1.8	2
TOTAL WORLD	164.7	173.6	179	197	215.8	229.6

EXPORTS† (m. units)

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Switzerland	69.5	71.4	70.2	75.8	81.8	84.4
Japan	9.4	11.4	13.3	15.3	16.5	18.7
USSR	9.4	10.7	11.2	12	13.3	14
W. Germany	4.8	4	3.8	3.6	3.8	4
France	3.8	5	6.5	7.1	8.4	8.8
E. Germany	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.3
Portugal	—	—	—	1.1	1.8	1.9
U.K.	1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	2.1
Italy	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.55
U.S.	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.2	0.5	0.5
TOTAL WORLD	100.4	106.4	108.4	118.2	129.3	137.5

† *Estimates for watches and watch movements*

SWISS SALES Jan.-Sept. 1975.

Continent	Units (thousand)	Change over same period 1974 (%)	Value (m.Sw.Fr.)	Change over same period 1974 (%)
Europe	15,387	− 0.1	735.8	− 4.1
Africa	3.149	+41.6	103.0	+16.6
Asia	14.913	−34.4	614.3	−21.7
America	11,268	−45.4	397.7	−35.7
(of which U.S.)	8,092	−47.1	242.6	−39.5
Oceania	597	−40.8	27.5	−35.2

THE WATCH

- 1500 The first watch appeared shortly after the invention of the mainspring. Motive power had previously been provided by weights and gravity. Early German and French watches measured 4-5 inches in diameter but were at least portable.
- 1704 The first jewel bearings patented.
- 1780 The first London patent for self-winding watch.
- 1924 The self-winding wrist watch, an English invention, first patented. Battery powered electromechanical watches followed.
- 1953 The second generation electric watch, employing a tiny tuning fork to provide the resonance drive.
- 1972-3 SOLID STATE quartz crystal watches with digital displays driven by mercury or silver oxide batteries.
- ATOMIC CLOCKS provide the latest word in timepieces. Using either the ammonia molecule or the caesium atom an accuracy factor of one second in 1,000 years has been achieved. A wrist model is not available—yet.

LABOUR NEWS

Jo Telegraph, Mirror ı Manchester

Y CHRISTIAN TYLER

RE WERE no Northern ions of the Daily Telegraph Daily Mirror published in chester last night following reat by the National Graphi- Association to "fight every of the way" against the y Telegraph's plans to phase 90 of the 137 jobs in its chester office. Printing ped after NGA men left building.

esterday's Telegraph an- ncement followed the deci- of the Mirror group to edit compose its Northern ions in London but to wire pages to Manchester for iting, as at present.

n Thursday, the company's ployees were told that 650 in London are to go as part he Telegraph's two-year plan introduce computer-based nology in London.

Ir. Joe Wade, general secretary of the NGA, said a total of 350 NGA jobs would disappear under the Telegraph and Mirror plans. Speaking before last night's stoppage, he said he could not rule out spontaneous industrial action.

The Mirror's decision to adopt facsimile transmission, announced last month, brought instant strike action from compositors as well as protests from journalists.

A Telegraph statement said the changeover, made necessary by the financial state of the company, would not take place until the autumn of 1977. It was not the intention that the individuality of the Northern editors of the paper should suffer from the change.

Print unions are to meet the Newspaper Publishers Association early next month for discussions on new technology over the whole of Fleet Street.

Maintenance men stop 24 flights to Europe

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

ITISH AIRWAYS cancelled of its 150 scheduled flights to ope yesterday because of a ke by maintenance workers r servicing the company's t of TriStars.

ut the airline said no pas- gers had to be turned away, l advised people to check in usual.

o-day 23 flights will be can- led unless continuing talks ween management and shop wards produce a settlement to dispute, which began with lacking" of TriStars by the ropean division's 650 main- ance workers last month.

The maintenance workers nand a special flexibility payment for servicing the TriStars. On Thursday night management suspended 12 men for continued refusal to work on the plane. Some 100 fleet maintenance men then walked out, and the later shifts did not report for work.

A British Airways spokesman said later that management representatives met officers of the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport and this was followed by a full meeting of the airline's engineering and maintenance national sectional panel.

"A mass meeting of the fleet maintenance men will be held on Sunday, when shop stewards and trade union officials will report back," he said.

Textile staff plan strikes

LITANT ACTION is spread- in the textile industry over de union insistence that the lustry's traditionally low-paid rkers should receive the full -week pay rise allowed under counter-inflation policy.

Yesterday, the National Union Hosiery and Knitwear orkers called on some 50,000 rkers in knitwear factories to ike every Monday starting cember 1 in support of its im for a flat rate £6 increase.

London docks foremen strike

A STRIKE by Port of London Authority foremen has disrupted work in the West India and Millwall docks and the Royal docks.

The men, mainly members of the white-collar section of the Transport and General Workers Union, are in dispute over recognition on negotiating committees. Tilbury docks is unaffected.

Heath makes veiled attack on leaders

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY CORRESPONDENT

IN A SPEECH full of veiled criticism of the Conservative Party leadership, Mr. Edward Heath yesterday advocated public spending to combat the present level of unemployment, and attacked those who put the case for private enterprise too stridently.

The former Conservative leader's theme was that the task facing free enterprise was to convince people that it was capable of providing economic justice for all.

He saw the answer not in the freer play of market forces as advocated by Sir Keith Joseph, but in the public spending priorities, an effective pay policy and employee participation schemes.

Speaking at an international conference in Rome, Mr. Heath said that all too often the case for private enterprise was put so stridently that it came across as a defence of "the rather crude values of early capitalism." No names were mentioned, but few Conservative MPs will doubt that Mr. Heath was referring to Mrs. Thatcher, the party leader, and Sir Keith Joseph, her chief policy adviser.

In an attempt to win popular support, some advocates of free enterprise had tried to put a strong ideological content into their argument, Mr. Heath said, but the trouble with ideology was that it ended up trying to mould people to fit the system. Such concepts of capitalism were hardy likely to have a wide popular appeal to a mass and mature electorate.

On the key issue of public spending, where the Conservatives are under constant pressure from Labour MPs to state where they would make cuts, Mr. Heath argued that top prority must be given to solving the problem of unemployment.

The Government should encourage the provision of alternative employment in the private enterprise system, partly through retraining for industry, combined with a housing programme to meet the needs of those changing jobs and a comprehensive regional policy.

"All of these involved the expenditure of public money," Mr. Heath admitted. What was certain was that politicians would never be able to win popular support for an economic system which tolerated "with genial indifference" a steady 1m. or more people out of work.

In his view, it was the issue of employee participation that would test most severely the capacity of free enterprise in Britain to meet the demands of a modern industrialised democracy.

Barred directors clause in Insolvency Bill

BY A. H. HERMANN

A DIRECTOR of two or more insolvent companies which have been, or are being, wound up could be disqualified from taking part in the management of other companies for a specified period, under one of the provisions of the Insolvency Bill published yesterday.

The court could make such order on the application of the Secretary of State for Trade if it found the director unfit on the basis of his conduct.

The Bill, intended to modernise and simplify existing bankruptcy procedures and strengthen the law on insolvency, contains some of the non-controversial provisions of the abandoned 1973 Companies Bill. According to estimates, the proposed simplification of proceedings could avoid an increase of public expenditure of some £3m. a year and reduce it by £750,000. The Bill does not propose any changes in the position of secured and unsecured creditors.

As a first modest step towards an integration of the entire legal machinery of debt enforcement, the Bill substantially strengthens the role of the County Courts which can supervise the settling of debts, usually by instalments. The Bill would give County Courts additional powers to make an administration order against a debtor who has other debts when the Court is of the opinion that all his liabilities should be dealt with together. The Bill also proposes that County Courts should be given the new power to revoke an administration order, for example when the debtor does not pay instalments, and substitute a receiving order. The debtor would then be subject to usual bankruptcy procedures.

To reduce the number of minor domestic and consumer credit cases, which now account for 40 per cent. of all bankruptcy cases—about 7,500 a year—the Bill proposes to increase the minimum debt required for a creditor's petition from £50 to £300. The higher limit would also apply to the winding up of companies. Other monetary values relating to bankruptcy and winding up would similarly be raised.

COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Wedgwood up 37% in first half

AFTER A first quarter rise from £1.18m. to £1.7m. pre-tax profits of fine bone china manufacturers **Wedgwood** show a 37 per cent increase from £2.28m. to £3.12m. for the 27 weeks to October 4, 1975. *External sales advanced by 31 per cent. to £22.75m.*

The chairman, Mr. Arthur Bryan, says that some earthenware factories and a few small departments elsewhere are working a four-day week, but despite this, he expects the current quarter to be generally satisfactory and the full year to be good.

Prospects for next year remain somewhat obscure, he tells members, but existing and planned *new products should stand up* well to whatever economic climate the group is asked to face.

First half earnings are shown to be up from 8.76p to 9.85p per 25p share on capital increased by *the March two for seven rights* issue. Profits for the year to March 29 1975 were £4.93m. and earnings 20.94p

	27 weeks 1975 £000	1974 £000	Year 1974-75 £000
External sales	22,749	17,306	36,751
Operating profit*	7,437	2,509	5,549
Interest	317	231	619
Profit before tax	3,120	2,278	4,930
Tax	1,646	1,170	2,271
Net profit	1,474	1,108	2,657
Extraord. credits†	301	225	1,752
Attributable	1,775	883	1,905

* As previously results of overseas interests converted at exchange rates operative at end of relevant periods but accounting method altered to exclude unrealised exchange profit and comparative figures amended accordingly. † Comprise mainly adjustments in value of net assets and borrowings overseas due to fluctuations in exchange rates. Unrealised appreciation in value of assets arising from such fluctuations in current period offset to a large extent by provision for unrealised but possible deferred capital losses on borrowings in Swiss francs. ‡ Debits.

Mr. Bryan reports that the market in the use for medium priced products remains extremely competitive. The home *market continues surprisingly* strong, although outside London and south east, less so than earlier in the year. Export performance continues at the high level of recent years.

The Board welcomes, in the *main, the Sandilands report even* though its effect would probably have been to make the 1974/75 profit appear to have been about 40 per cent. less than shown by conventional accounting methods.

The new Coalport factory is *now in operation and plans for* further capital development are proceeding, adds the chairman.

See Lex

HIGHLIGHTS

From the property sector **Capital and Counties** discloses *that the slide in values has produced a £25m. loss on capital* account: the position is discussed in the Lex column. Lex also examines the **Wedgwood** half-year figures where profits are up by more than one-third despite difficult trading conditions. **Ferguson Industrial**, which supplies the building sector, reports lower first-half profits: and there is a sharp fall in profits of **Century Oils**, but in both cases there is hope of an improvement in the second half. **Invergordon Distillers** at the interim stage shows profits only marginally lower.

McInerney £0.46m. loss midway

INCLUDING a deficit of £0.42m. from Cappincur Joinery, **McInerney Properties** incurred a pre-tax loss of £0.46m. during the first half of 1975, compared with *£0.58m.*

But, according to the directors, six contracts, each of which "will be profitable," are due to be completed before the end of the year and—as forecast—the year as a whole will show a profit. They *anticipate that activity levels outside Ireland during 1976 "will* mark a return to a meaningful level of profitability for the group."

Again there is no interim dividend. The last payments, *totalling 6p net, were in 1973.*

For the full year 1974 a loss of £2.99m. was incurred.

Commenting on Cappincur Joinery, the directors say that excess capacity caused by reduced levels of activity in the construction industry has resulted in severe price competition and losses are continuing, but at a reduced rate. Possible partnership with other joinery interests have been under active consideration.

Sales of land and of the Paris investment, the introduction of additional capital and reduction in working capital levels have *combined to reduce borrowings* substantially so that the current level is about half of that shown in the books at December 31 1974. The company is continuing with the policy of reducing borrowings, they add.

	Half-year 1975 £000	1974 £000	Year 1974-75 £000
Group turnover	12,711	15,969	29,021
Private housing	3,358	4,921	9,511
Ground rents	29	105	177
Contracts	7,628	6,156	14,586
Other sales	1,698	3,787	4,447
Pre-tax loss	457	880	2,999

Century Oils downturn

FIRST HALF (to September 30, 1975) pre-tax profit of **Century** *Oils contracted from £602,000 to* £328,000, but the directors indicate a "significant improvement" over that figure for the second half. Profit for the year to March 31, 1975 increased from £0.66m. to a record £1.01m.

Earnings per 10p share for the six months were down from 4.25p to 2.14p. As before the interim dividend is 0.35p net—last year's total was 1.9469p.

Refining activities in Scotland have been through their most difficult period and show losses for the first half. However, it is expected that these will begin to contribute to profit by the end of the year, the directors state.

	Half year 1975 £000	1974 £000
Turnover	6,620	6,140
Interest charges	71	55
Pre-tax profit	328	602
Taxation	171	319
Retained	125	263

● comment

Although apparently distorted by the uneven timing of oil price increases, **Century Oils'** first-half figures still reflect difficulties on the trading front. Demand for lubricating oils is very low at *present—overall U.K. sales volume* has fallen by roughly 15 per cent. so far in 1975—and this is reflected by a turnover gain of only 8 per cent. despite higher selling prices. Interest charges which rose by 29 per cent. in the first *half are continuing to rise in the* second six months, even though this period is feeling the full benefits of the £475,000 rights issue proceeds; apparently these are being used to finance the higher cost of raw materials. The second *six months should see the first* profits from the group's Scottish refining interests, and this should enable it to achieve a small improvement over the corresponding figures of the previous year. However, with a real recovery dependent on a pick-up demand from industry in general, the shares at 36p, yielding 8.4 per cent., could be vulnerable.

Invergordon £0.65m. at halfway

GROUP PROFIT, before tax, of **Invergordon Distillers (Holdings)** decreased from £683,000 to £654,000 in the half year to September 30, 1975. The figure for the year to March 31, 1975, was *£1,407,232.*

The interim dividend is stepped up from 0.5p to 0.55p net per 25p share—this time payment is postponed until April 2 for tax reasons. Last year's total was 1.7p.

	Six months 1975 £	1974 £
Group sales	5,168,200	5,884,300
Trading profit	1,006,200	1,014,600
Depreciation	108,300	91,500
Interest charges	243,100	240,100
Profit before tax	654,800	683,000
Taxation	340,500	324,000
Net profit	314,300	359,000
Interim dividend	106,192	94,300
Retained	208,118	264,700

● comment

Invergordon's profits have held up well in difficult circumstances. On a 12 per cent. drop in turnover, *implying a far greater fall in* volume, trading profits are all but unchanged. Industry production of grain new fillings fell by 17 per cent. in the first half of 1975, in the wake of destocking by blenders, and export markets like Italy—*a major group customer*—have been fairly grim. On the other hand, mature stocks are now coming through into costings and there has been a revision in warehouse rents. Interest charges have continued to stabilise, reflecting *attention to stock volumes, and* capital expenditure on distilleries and warehousing of £750,000 or so this year should be covered by cash flow, with the benefit of stock relief. A maximum prospective yield of 9.4 per cent. at 31p is *taking into account the possibility* of worsening trading conditions, but cover, of nearly three times so far, should be ample.

Exceptional costs hit W. W. Hall

AFTER exceptional debits of £527,345 against £41,866, building material distributors **W. W. Hall** made a pre-tax loss of £578,217 in the year to April 30, 1975 com*pared with profits of £409,129. At* midway the loss was £99,000 against profits of £273,000.

The full year loss per share is shown at 6.4p (earnings 3.42p) per 10p share and there is no dividend (total 2.1105p net).

The directors say that the year was exceptional, as together with difficult trading conditions, activities were very largely overshadowed by problems with the group sales ledger which originated in prior years.

To resolve these problems further significant additional costs were incurred and it was necessary to make substantial adjustments to debtors including an exceptional provision for bad and doubtful debts.

Management accounts for first five months of the current year indicate that the company is again trading profitably.

	1974-75 £	1973-74 £
Turnover	11,493,105	11,026,959
Interest	161,093	97,947
Depreciation	74,711	79,474
Exceptional debits	527,345	41,866
Loss before tax	578,217	*409,129
Tax credit	229,760	†223,000
Net loss	348,457	*186,129
Dividends	—	114,811
Deficit	348,457	*71,318

*Profit. †Charge.

The auditors are qualifying their report because it is not possible to quantify the proportions of exceptional charges relating to the period of the accounts and to earlier periods respectively. They further express the opinion that proper sales accounting records were not maintained during the year.

The sales accounting records are now functioning satisfactorily, members are told, which in turn has brought about a measurable reduction in bank borrowings.

Uptrend at Ferguson Industrial

ON SALES up by 30 per cent. to £10.34m. group pre-tax profit of **Ferguson Industrial Holdings** decreased from £485,529 to £342,294 in the six months to August 31, 1975.

But as the second half of last year produced sales and profit of £8.21m. and £315,523 respectively, there is now an upward trend in both, which is encouraging, says the chairman, Mr. D. Vernon.

He points out, however, that while the current half is not going to produce any dramatic upturn in the trading of any of the group companies, all are now making a contribution to profits, and are ready to take advantage of any improvement in the economy.

As an increase in activity will bring a need for increased working capital, which has been contained or even reduced during the recession, a large part of the overdraft has been converted into a ten-year loan of £1m. from BALL.

Mr. Vernon is not venturing a forecast for the current half-year, "but we can derive some encouragement from the increase in activity in the private and public housing sectors, the healthy state of the building societies' funds, and the continuing higher level of sales in both our building and engineering supplies divisions," he declares.

An unchanged net interim dividend of 2.1p is declared. Last year's total was 4.548p per 25p share.

	6 months 1975	1974
Sales	10,337,473	7,945,081
Trading profit	419,779	578,094
Interest	94,672	84,743
Employees' profit	21,171	35,063
Associate	38,518	27,251
Pre-tax profit	342,294	485,529
Taxation	178,000	252,000
Net profit	164,294	233,529
Dividends	89,124	85,516
Retained	75,170	148,013

● comment

With activity in the construction industry at rock bottom levels, competition in the builders' merchants sector has been intense. Against this background, a 30 per cent. shortfall in Ferguson's first-half pre-tax profits is understandable. Ferguson has managed to keep volume going by switching to more direct sales of heavy building materials, where margins are much lower than ex-yard sales. Problems were also encountered in one subsidiary of Wright-Scriven, where stock write-offs and terminal losses have much reduced the contribution. The second *half should see a much* better contribution from W-S which, together with the group figures for September and October, suggests an overall balance little changed from 1974-75. That should cheer the shares at *69p, which give an* above-average yield for the builders' merchant sector of 10.4 per cent.

Freddie Mansfield

Mr. Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

		Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Allied Leather	int.	1.24	Dec. 5	1.17	—	3.19
Bonas Webb	int.	Nil	—	Nil	—	0.5
Capital and Counties		0.01	Dec. 30	1.51	0.01	2.25
Century Oils	int.	0.35	—	0.35	—	1.95
Ferguson Industrial	int.	2.1	Jan. 19	2.1	—	4.55
Grampian TV	int.	0.35	Dec. 23	Nil	—	Nil
W. W. Hall		Nil	—	1.41	Nil	2.11
Invergordon	int.	0.55	April 2	0.5	—	1.7
Renong Tin		10(a)	Dec. 22	11	12	14
Telbedde Ragalla	int.	7.15	(b)	5.4	7.15	5.4

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.
* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. (a) Gross throughout. (b) To be paid after funds are received from Sri Lanka.

Allied Leather progress

FIRST HALF 1975 turnover of **Allied Leather Industries** increased from £4.38m. to £5.24m., and pre-tax profit advanced from £230,340 to £247,346.

The *interim* dividend is stepped up from 1.1725p net to 1.235p. Last year's total was 3.1875p from a profit of £751,675.

	Half-year 1975 £	1974 £
Group turnover	5,237,179	4,375,172
Trading profit	224,531	205,923
Investments income	22,815	24,417
Profit before tax	247,346	230,340
Taxation	120,000	110,000
Net profit	127,346	120,340
Extraordinary credits*	22,057	106,302
Balance	149,403	226,642
Interim dividend	24,700	23,450

* Net profit on disposal of properties.

Bonas Webb back in profit

Turnover of textile manufac*turers Bonas Webb slipped from* £1.32m. to £1.12m. in the first half to July 12, 1975 but the company made a pre-tax profit of £32,882, compared with a loss of £24,316.

The directors report an increase in second half turnover and they "*face the future with* cautious optimism."

	First half 1975 £	1974 £
Turnover	1,122,681	1,316,603
Pre-tax profit	32,882	*24,316
Tax	10,000	†16,618
Net profit	22,252	*7,698
Minorities	1,770	9,073
Pre-acq. profits	—	10,879
Attributable profit	21,112	*27,650

* Loss. † Credit.

Again there is no interim dividend—last year's final was 0.5p net and there was a loss of £62,502.

Statement Page 5

Grampian TV back to dividends

After one year's lapse **Grampian Television** is resuming dividends with the payment of an interm of 0.35p net in respect of the year to Feb. 29, 1976.

First half pre-tax profit improved from £8,249 to £15,316, and the directors state that second half profit "should be considerably in excess of that of the first half." *For the year 1974-75 there* was a turnround from a profit of £306,731 to a loss of £28,569.

The chairman, Mr. I. M. Tennant, says there has been a further increase in advertising revenue in late autumn, and after discussions with IBA and other contractors, the rate at which the company buys network programmes has been considerably reduced—at least until end of July, 1976, when the next programme contract starts.

ISSUE NEWS

£600M TREASURY 10½% 1979

The **Treasury** is issuing a further tranche of £600m. 10½ per cent. Stock 1979 at £95.50 per cent. The new stock will be designated Treasury Stock 1979 "A," to avoid confusion with the earlier tranche issued in February.

Interest on the stock will be payable half-yearly on May 1 and November 1, with the first pay*ment due on May 1, 1976, of £4.49* per cent. The stock will be repaid on November 1, 1979, at par.

The prospectus will be published on November 25, and the list of applications will open and close on Thursday, November 27.

Letters of Allotment in respect of the further tranche of 10½ per cent. Treasury Stock, 1979, may be split into denominations of £100. They may be lodged for registration not later than February 18, 1976.

BIDS AND DEALS

Share suspension for SWS Dutch associate

The Amsterdam Bourse Association yesterday suspended trading in the Ordinary shares of Slater Walker Securities' associate Helma Holding and in NV Beleggingsmij de Wereldhave.

Wereldhave said it asked the Helma management to discuss a public share exchange offering for all outstanding shares of Helma.

A possible offer depends partly on discussions which will be held with Helma's major shareholders and will therefore not take place within three weeks, it is stated.

Talks have not yet been held with Helma and studies of the financial and fiscal position of the company are not yet complete, Wereldhave said.

Helma's Fls.13.3m. nominal *capital is* 49 per cent. held by SWS and 31 per cent. by Generale Occidentale SA, of Paris.

Major Wereldhave holders are Robeco NV with 25 per cent. and Nedvast NV with 12 per cent.

Helma Fls.10 shares closed at *Fls.41 and Wereldhave at Fls.93.50.*

MARSHALL MORGAN FORECASTS £0.95M.

Marshall, Morgan and Scott is forecasting pre-tax profits of £950,000 for 1975 in the formal offer document on its proposed merger with Pentos which was sent to shareholders yesterday. MMS made a pre-tax profit last year of £878,000 and has reported an interim figure of £133,000.

The Pentos offer, which values the shares in MMS—other than Pentos' existing 27 per cent. stake—at £2.75m., is worth 97½p for each share in MMS.

Shareholders in MMS are offered for each existing share 1¼ of a Pentos share plus 50p of a new 15 per cent. convertible unsecured loan stock 1985.

Brocks to sell ITR for £1.8m.

The Brocks Group of Companies announced yesterday that it has contracted to sell to Redgate Securities the capital of International Time Recording Holdings (ITR). The total consideration is £1.8m. cash, all of which will be paid by completion on December 31 except for £450,000 which is payable not later than November 20, 1976.

Brocks' pre-tax profits for the first half of 1975 declined from £644,153 to £515,200 on a turnover up from £4.25m. to £4.5m.

At the date of the last audited accounts to December 31, 1974, ITR Holdings had a net book asset value of £824,552 and net profits before tax of £415,379.

ITR Holdings has also agreed to lease at a rental of £50,000 per annum part of the factory complex belonging to the Brocks Group at Poole, Dorset.

Results due next week

Heading a diverse group of top names next week is **ICI**, followed by **Lonrho** and **Tesco**. Other majors on our list include **Associated Newspapers**, **The 600 Group** and **Johnson-Matthey**.

ICI's six monthly profits in September were 38 per cent. lower at £158m. pre-tax but within that the second quarter contribution—profits marginally lower at £78m. pre-tax against £80m. last time—was ahead of most expectations. Fibres and plastics were still suffering a recession but it appeared that profits were beginning to move off the bottom. The implication is Thursday's nine months profits will reveal *little change in the third quarter* and could put the group on course for a full year pre-tax total of around £315m. compared with £518m. previously.

Lonrho looks set to reveal a big third quarter when it *announces its full year figures on* Thursday. This follows a 35 per cent. pre-tax rise in the third quarter to £14.9m., which lifted the nine months' pre-tax level from £27m. to £35.2m. The mining interests are still suffering a depression but the trading divisions are more than making up for this with the fastest growth coming from the oil rich West African Countries. A final quarter increase from £18m. pre-tax to £30m. seems a reasonable hope, indicating full year profits about £20m. higher at £65m.

Against a very depressed period when profits fell £2m. to £8.4m., Wednesday's interim results will probably show that **Tesco** has made up that lost ground. Margins, however, are unlikely to have made much of an advance—food *volume has been depressed while* the competitive pressures have been quite fierce and Tesco has probably done little better than hold its market share. So interim pre-tax profits of around £10.8m. seem feasible, followed by a less encouraging second half as margins will then be difficult to hold.

Associated Newspapers' 1974-75 profits were 12 per cent. lower before tax at £8.2m. and the downturn seems certain to gain pace in the current year. Advertising revenue is still very depressed and, although the group's trading interests could provide some cushion, a fairly sharp downturn —maybe £1½m. pre-tax to £2½m.— in Tuesday's interim profits seems unavoidable. For the full year a pre-tax total of roughly £5m. before tax is probably a maximum hope.

Analysts seem to be expecting a downturn in interim pre-tax profits on Thursday from **The 600 Group** of something between £1m. and £1½m. against last year's interim of £5.1m. The figures this time will *not benefit from the* stock profits seen the previous year, and though there will be some carry forward from the buoyancy of last year, the scrap side is expected to be down this time. An all-round decline is looked for, with a further setback coming in the second half.

Following the sharp downturn in first-quarter figures from **Johnson-Matthey**—profits fell by a third—the second quarter is unlikely to have staged any recovery. Sales were down by a fifth to June, reflecting conditions within the chemical and precious metals fields, and the situation was no better in the three months to September. So, since the second quarter is generally lower than the first anyway, this time it could be down below £2½m. (£4m.), to leave interim profits due on Wednesday around £5½m. (£8.4m.).

Also featured in our list next week are **Magnet Joinery** and **Southerns-Evans** on Monday with interim figures, while on Tuesday first-half results are due from **Hambros** and **Brown Shipley Holdings** and preliminaries from **Akroyd and Smithers** and **Yarrow**. Wednesday should see full-year results from **Avon Rubber** and six-monthly figures from **MK Electric** and **Scottish and Universal Investments**, and *on Thursday* **French Kier**, **Airfix** and **Exchange Telegraph** will report interims along with **Manganese Bronze's** full year.

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Final	This year Int.
FINAL DIVIDENDS				
[illegible]	Wednesday	1.34	1.34	1.5
Akroyd and Smithers	Tuesday	—	—	7.02
[illegible]	Thursday	12.5	25.?	30.0(a)
[illegible] Trust	Tuesday	—	0.4	—
Avon Rubber	Wednesday	2.81	3.55	Nil
[illegible]	Tuesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Carr's Milling Industries	Tuesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sir Joseph Causton and Sons	Wednesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nil
James H. Dennis	Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] Holdings	Wednesday	[illegible]	Nil	Nil
M. J. Gleeson (Contractors)	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lonrho	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Manganese Bronze Holdings	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nil
[illegible] Company	Wednesday	—	[illegible]	—
Scottish Investment Trust	Thursday	0.475	[illegible]	0.455
Scottish and Mercantile Investment	Tuesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible] Holdings	Tuesday	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tomkinsons (Holdings)	Friday	—	[illegible]	—
United Wire Group	Thursday	1.4	2.5	1.4
Wade Potteries	Wednesday	[illegible]	0.797	0.476
Yarrow and Co.	Tuesday	1.05	2.465	1.3
INTERIM DIVIDENDS				
Airfix Industries	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Edgar Allen Balfour	Tuesday	1.2	[illegible]	
Anderson Strathclyde	Thursday	[illegible]	5.0	
Associated Newspapers Group	Tuesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
John Beales Associated Companies	Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Boosey and Hawkes	Wednesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Braby Leslie	Tuesday	0.75	[illegible]	
Brickhouse Dudley	Wednesday	0.521	[illegible]	
British Indian Tea Company (Holdings)	Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
British Steam Specialties Group	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Brown Shipley Holdings	Tuesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible] Group	Wednesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	Tuesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Walter Duncan and Goodricke	Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	Wednesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Alfred Dunhill	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	Tuesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Evans of Leeds	Tuesday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Exchange Telegraph Company (Holdings)	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Fine Art Developments	Thursday	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Flight Refuelling (Holdings)	Thursday	[illegible]	1.443	

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Final	This year Int.
F.M.C.	Wednesday	2.5	2.5*	
French Kier Holdings	Thursday	Nil	0.05	
Hambros	Tuesday	17.0	34.0	
Thomas Hardman and Sons	Thursday	0.604	0.529	
Hargreaves Group	Thursday	0.571	1.25	
Hicking Pentecost	Thursday	1.5	2.569	
Highgate and Job Group	Tuesday	4.02	5.2	
E. E. Jeavons	Thursday	0.75	1.09	
Johnson, Matthey and Co.	Wednesday	3.0	5.226	
Kleeneze Holdings	Monday	0.875	2.8	
Leigh Interests	Tuesday	0.396	0.43	
Leisure Caravan Parks	Tuesday	1.29	3.14	
Lennons Group	Monday	0.317	0.803	
London and Midland Industrials	Thursday	1.5	2.2	
Magnet Joinery	Monday	0.848	1.587	
Marling Industries	Tuesday	0.44	0.42	
Melville, Dundas and Whitson	Tuesday	1.131	1.926	
M & G Second Dual Trust	Wednesday	1.9	1.8	
M.K. Electric Holdings	Wednesday	Nil	2.0	
[illegible] Investment Trust	Wednesday	0.75	0.72	
[illegible] Racasan	Wednesday	1.0	2.376	
Property Investment and Finance	Monday	Nil	Nil	
William Reed and Sons	Friday	Nil	2.459	
Ropner Holdings	Monday	0.8	0.8	
Scottish and Universal Investments	Wednesday	1.584	2.606	
Sekers International	Wednesday	0.5	1.0*	
600 Group	Thursday	1.4	1.662	
[illegible]	Monday	1.0	2.5	
Southerns-Evans	Monday	1.275	1.284	
Tesco Stores (Holdings)	Wednesday	0.379	0.667	
Transparent Paper	Tuesday	1.7	2.295	
Triplex Foundries Group	Thursday	1.2	1.348	
Tunnel Holdings	Thursday	2.405	3.668	
R. K. [illegible] Watson	Tuesday	0.911	0.944	
Wheway Watson Holdings	Tuesday	0.25	0.291	
INTERIM FIGURES ONLY				
Crosby Spring Interiors	Thursday			
G. H. Downing	Monday			
Lee Cooper Group	Wednesday			
Louis C. Edwards and Sons (Manchester)	Friday			
Ultra Electronic Holdings	Tuesday			
Hazlewoods (Proprietary)	Monday			
Imperial Chemical Industries	Thursday(b)			

* Dividends shown net, pence per share, and adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. * Second interim. ‡ Includes second interim. § Forecast 9.5p final in June, 1975 prospectus. ¶ Includes second interim—declaration of final figures only due. (a) Cents. (b) Third-quarter figures.

UNIT TRUSTS

Save and Prosper Property Fund

Save and Prosper is advertising the **Save and Prosper Property Fund** this week. The minimum investment is £250 but there is a special 1 per cent. discount on the offer price for investors who put in a minimum of £1,000 before December 14. Investors with £1,000 or more may also opt to withdraw 4 to 8 per cent. per annum from the fund, free of basic rate income tax. Higher rate tax payers may withdraw up to 5 per cent. each year with a considerable tax advantage. The fund was launched in March, 1971 and is now one of the largest, currently valued at £24.6m. The investment advisers are Healey and Baker.

● comment

The **Save and Prosper Property Fund** may justly claim to be up *among the leaders of the property* bond field in terms of performance, though, looking at the **Money Management** 4-year tables, it seems to be bunched with major competitors. S and P is keen on a diversified portfolio, concentrat*ing on the smaller type of prime* property with less enthusiasm for Europe than was the case in its early stages.

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ANSBACHER INCOME

Ansbacher Unit Management is offering investors its **Ansbacher Income Monthly Fund** this weekend, yielding an estimated 10.2 per cent. gross. *The fund invests in high-yielding* equities where the dividend is adequately covered. The trust possesses the unique feature of paying its income monthly. It is, however, aimed at the larger investor, the minimum outlay being £5,000.

● comment

Income trusts are the most popular with investors this year and the **Ansbacher Income Monthly Fund** offers investors a good starting yield *for an equity-*based fund with good growth prospects. Its unique monthly payment feature enables investors to use this trust to [illegible] or offset regular monthly ou[tgoings] such as mortgage repaym[ents]. The minimum investmen[t is] pitched rather high, but it [seems] *to be in order to provide* m[eaning]ful monthly payments.

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International Hldgs. merge[r]

International Holdings Cor[pora]tion a close-end invest[ment] company whose shares are [listed] on the New York Stock Exch[ange] and the **Cheapside Dollar** [Fund] an open-end investment com[pany] announce that they have en[tered] into an agreement to [merge] IHC into CDF. The exchan[ge of] shares will be on the bas[is of] the net asset values on the business day before the m[erger] is effected. Schroders Inc[orpor]ated the investment advis[er of] CDF will be the adviser afte[r the] merger.

LAWSON HIGH YIELD

Lawson Securities is adver[tising] the **Lawson High Yield Fun**[d this] week-end offering investo[rs an] estimated gross yield of 12 per cent. The underlying [port]folio is a mix of fixed-in[terest] Preference shares (40 per [cent.]) and high-yielding equities a[nd in]vestment trust income s[hares]. The minimum investment is [...] accumulation units, a r[egular] saving plan and a share exc[hange] scheme are available.

● comment

The **Lawson High Yield** [Fund] remains among the leaders [of] high income funds. The ble[nd of] *fixed-interest* and equity i[nvest]ment provides investors w[ith a] high level of initial income [and] reasonable prospects for [...] increases in that income. [How]ever, the capital growth pro[spects] of such a fund depend no[t only] *on the equity market risin*[g but] on interest rates coming [down] appreciably.

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Jascot Intl. Growth Fu[nd]

The **Jascot International Growth Fund** is on offer with a minimum investment requirement of £200. The managers, Arbuthnot Securities, emphasise their current *enthusiasm for N. America, stat*ing that whereas in its five-year history the fund has been strong in Japan, Germany, Australia and the Far East, it now has 80 per cent. of its investment in North America. The estimated gross *yield is 2.42 per cent.*

● comment

The switch in emphasis of the **Jascot International Growth Fund** reflects the views of Arbuthnot Securities, which is backed by merchant bankers Arbuthnot Latham. This is one of the recently-acquired trusts in the Jascot group and its virtue is that, despite present emphasis on North America, it is not committed to any one area.

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SCHLESINGERS MONEYMANAGER

Schlesinger Trust Managers is advertising the **International Moneymanager**, which is a new ten-year investment scheme linking a qualifying life assurance policy to International "PIMS." The idea is that an investment *(minimum £2,300 or £5,000 with* PIMS) put aside in the International Growth Fund should be gradually transferred by fixed annual premiums into a life assurance fund (TIM) which is in turn invested into the Inter*national Units*. This offers various tax advantages over a straight investment in the unit trust, including the ability to receive the capital in tax-free form after ten years. To achieve maximum advantage, investments should be made before the "Appointed Day" when the new rules for qualification come in under the 1975 Finance Act. This should be early in April.

● comment

The International Moneymanager is a complicated scheme designed essentially to help the higher rate taxpayer achieve maximum tax advantage from a lump sum investment. Any one contemplating the scheme should certainly take advice, and indeed *Schlesinger itself is intent on* holding the investor's hand. One example of the complications is that it might be advisable to take out "clusters" of insurance policies rather than just one, so as not to commit oneself to a fixed premium each year.

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LAWSON GILT AND WARRANT

Lawson Securities is also offering the **Lawson Gilt and Warrant Fund** this week-end. This is a hybrid fund whose portfolio consists of two widely differing investments—gilt-edged stocks and warrants. The former provide the security, while the warrants (which are essentially a form of long-term option) provide the excitement. The minimum investment is £100 and a share exchange scheme and a savings plan are available.

● comment

The **Lawson Gilt and Warrant Fund** must still be the most original unit trust idea of the past two years. The gilt holding provides stability and protects the unitholder from loss, while the warrants provide the growth potential. Investors wishing to participate in the investment prospects of warrants could find such a fund of interest to them.

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CRESCENT INTL.

Crescent Life Assurance is offering the **Crescent International Plan** to investors this week-end. This is a regular savings open-ended life assurance contract using the Crescent International Fund as the underlying investment vehicle. Initially 90 per cent. of the premiums are invested in units, but this proportion is raised to 97 per cent. when the aggregate value o[f units] purchased exceeds the g[uaran]teed death cover. This is fi[xed at] the total of premiums paid [up to] the policy anniversary pr[ior to] *the investor's 60th birthda*[y. The] minimum investment i[s £5] monthly (£60 annually). Th[e com]pany is part of the Am[...] Trust. There is a special [intro]ductory discount of 10 pe[r cent.] off the unit price for ne[w sub]*scribers in respect of th*[eir first] allocation.

● comment

The Crescent Intern[ational] Plan offers investors the [oppor]tunity of spreading their p[...] overseas on a regular p[...] basis, providing added adva[ntage] of tax relief on the premiu[ms and] a high level of death cove[r. The] underlying fund Crescent [Inter]national, has a wide geogr[aphical] spread—33 per cent. in th[e U.K.] and western Europe 26 pe[r cent.] in Japan and 31 per ce[nt. in] North America. The ma[nagers] are concentrating on Japa[n and] the U.S. at the moment. O[ver the] past five years the unit p[rice of] the fund has risen by 60 pe[r cent.] against 6 per cent. in t[he] Ordinary share index. B[ut in]vestors should regard this [as] a long-term investment.

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ALLIED HAMBR[O] HIGH YIELD

Allied Investors Trust is a[dvertis]ing the **Allied Hambro Hig**[h Yield] **Fund** *this* week-end, [offering] investors an estimated gro[ss yield] of 9.6 per cent. The und[erlying] portfolio is almost wholly i[nvested] in high-yielding U.K. equit[ies (...] per cent.) with the remai[nder in] cash. The minimum invest[ment is] £100 and a share exchange [scheme] is available. Charges are an [initial] 5 per cent. together with a yearly renewal fee of ⅜ pe[r cent.] (plus VAT). The trustee [is Mid]land Bank Trust Company.

● comment

High yielding funds have b[een the] most successful of trusts th[is year] and the **Allied Hambro Hig**[h Yield] Fund provides a startin[g yield] approaching 10 per cent. Al[though] this is below the yield offe[red by] funds with a strong fixed-[interest] content, the income growt[h pros]pects have been maximi[sed by] investing entirely in e[quities.] Investors should, therefor[e con]sider the long-term pr[ospects] offered by this trust.

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S & P (JERSEY) COMMODITY FU[ND]

An offer of shares for S[ave and] **Prosper (Jersey) Commodi**[ty Fund] will open for subscript[ion on] November 25 and close on [Decem]ber 12. This an open-ended [invest]ment company, incorpor[ated in] Jersey, which will invest in a broad spread of comm[odities] traded on the London [...] Exchange or cleared thro[ugh the] International Commodity [Clearing] House.

The offer is open to inst[itutional] and private investors [...] overseas or in the U.K. [...] the view of the managers [...] is only suitable as part of [a] diversified portfolio. Conse[quently] applications for shares—m[inimum] £1,000—will be accepte[d only] through approved agents [...] stockbrokers. Commission [at a] rate of 3 per cent. will be [paid to] agents, coming out of the [...] cent. initial charge. Annu[al] costs and charges are not e[xpected] to exceed 1 per cent.

The company is mana[ged by] S and P International b[ased in] Bermuda and the inv[estment] adviser will be Robert [...] Investment Management. [The] custodian will be Nation[al West]minster Jersey Trust Co. Forward contracts may be [entered] into for the purchase of commodities but the m[anagers] will ensure that these [are] covered to the extent [...] thirds by cash or similar [...] Similar restrictions apply [to put] and call options.

Dealings will be not [more fre]quent than once every tw[o weeks] commencing on January [...]

[S]UMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

[Take]-over bids and mergers

[Hi]ghlighting the bids and mergers sector last week was the [announ]cement of an agreed £11.7m. share-exchange bid from [Alexan]der Howden for fellow Lloyd's insurance brokers Halford [Shead]. The terms of nine AH shares for every four of HS [are un]animously recommended by the HS directors, who have [given i]rrevocable undertakings to accept for their aggregate 33¼ [per cen]t. shareholding in HS.

[Th]e largest U.K. manufacturer of ball-bearings, Ransome [Hoffm]ann Pollard, is making a diversification move into the [electr]ical industrial electrical control-gear business with an £3.8m. shares and cash offer for MTE. Thirty-five RHP plus £12.50 in cash are offered for every 100 MTE units, [curren]tly valuing each MTE at 37p, while an all-cash alternative 30.7p per MTE is also being provided. Mr. G. R. Browne, chairman and founder, is irrevocably accepting in respect approximate 30 per cent. stake in the company.

[Ce]ntral and Sheerwood Trust, with the Take-over Panel's [agreem]ent, is offering 18p nominal of a new 12 per cent. Loan for each share in Ashbourne Investments, valuing the at £1.6m. Dealing in Ashbourne's shares have been sus[pended] since April, 1974, following the Crest International [Securi]ties/Corporate Guarantee Trust consortium's failure to [honour] its obligation of bidding 46p per Ashbourne share, the [consortium ha]d paid for some 43 per cent. of the Ashbourne equity. [The ne]w Loan stock is likely to command a stock market price [b]elow par value, but Ashbourne shareholders, other than [co]nsortium members, are being offered an alternative 20p [cas]h for each share.

[St]ewart Plastics, injection moulding manufacturers of products, has received an approach from Bowater which [may l]ead to an offer. Bowater will need the Stewart Board's [acqui]escence for a bid to succeed since the Board members hold [betwe]en them some 60 per cent. of the company's equity. [Stewar]t's shares have risen strongly on the news to 96p, [capita]lising the company at £4.4m.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share k	Market price k	Price before bid	Value of bid (£m's) k	Bidder	Final Acc'tce date
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.						
Andre Bernard	6½*	6	5	0.1*	Hepmead	—
Ashbourne Invs.	20b	41‡	41‡	—	Ctl.& Sheerwood Trust	—
Atlas Stone	115*	114	60	4.5*	C. F. Eternit	—
Clifton Invs.	4½*d	9¼	4¼	0.15*d	Aries Hldgs.	—
Court Hotels	50*	32‡	32‡	1.3*	BSQ Secs.	—
Dawson & Barfos	53	51	48	3.2	Mthws. Hldgs.	2/12
Felixstowe Dock	150*	123	90	5.2*	Brit. Transpt. Docks Board	—
Great Boulder	72d	72	70	44.0d	Western Mng.	—
Gresham Hotel	135*	135	—	1.1*	Tunney S. Htls.	—
Halford Shead	304	298	235	11.7	Alex. Howden	—
Holt Products	—	41	32	6.1e	Agreed merger	
Lloyds Inds.	—	65	53			
Hothlyn Cpn. "A"	53*d	52	40	3.2*d	Mr. Abe Goldberg	—
Hothlyn Cpn. "B"	53*d	52	46	0.9*d	Mr. Abe Goldberg	—
Magnet Joinery	—	208	180	46.7e	Agreed merger	
Southerns-Evans	—	150	92½			
Marshall Morgan and Scott	99½d	94	77	2.7d	Pentos	—
Morris (Herbert)	60*d	66	54	1.2*d	Amal. Industls.	—
MTE	37	35	29	3.8	Pearl Assur.	28/11
New Lond. Props.	250*d	245	165	5.1*d	Ransome Hoffman Pollard	—
Permali	32d	31¼	15	2.4d	BTR	—
Robinson Rentals	204d	198	160	7.4d	Granada	—
Scotia Invs.	17*d	17	20	0.6*d	Alco Metrop. Properties	—
SA Distilleries	360d	360	380	5.8d	Oude Meester	—
Trianco	7*d	7	6½	0.4*d	Ctl.& Sheerwood Trust	—
Walmsley (Bury)	60*d	55¼	37	1.6*d	Beloit Cpn.	—

* All cash offer. b Cash alternative. c Partial bid. d For capital not already held. e Combined market capitalisation. f Date on which scheme is expected to become operative. g Based on 21-11-75. k Based on 20-11-75. n Notional value. ‡ At suspension. † Bid.

Rights Issues

J. H. Fenner (Holdings): Three-for-ten at 90p each.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Earnings* per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
J. Brockhouse	Sept. 30	2,702	(3,022)	26.9	(28.4)	11.798	(11.055)
Caroni	June 30	4,913	(1,963)	6.4	(3.2)	3.0	(Nil)
John Carr (Doncstr.)	Sept. 30	1,346	(1,344)	5.7	(5.7)	1.49	(1.4)
Comet Radiovision	Aug. 30	2,259	(1,466)	8.5	(5.0)	2.86	(2.58)
Dimbula Vlly Tea	Dec. 31	53	(9)L	27.5	(—)	21.2	(Nil)
Enalon Plastics	June 30	158	(114)	12.1	(10.5)	4.437	(4.158)
J. H. Fenner	Aug. 31	5,527	(4,501)	13.7	(11.7)	5.0	(4.69)
Grand Cntrl Inv.	Dec. 31	364	(222)	1.0	(0.7)	0.5	(0.5)
Greencoat Props.	June 30	163	(239)L	0.2	(—)	0.13	(0.268)
House of Sears	June 30	98L	(166)L	—	(—)	Nil	(Nil)
Judge Intl.	June 28	519	(914)	2.7	(6.8)	1.846	(1.846)
McLeod Russel	Mar. 31	2,500	(904)	26.4	(18.2)	5.869	(5.5)
Morland	Sept. 30	541	(449)	22.6	(17.8)	10.134	(9.497)
Muirhead	Sept. 30	1,102	(810)	7.7	(6.7)	3.016	(2.827)
RCF Holdings	July 31	905	(684)	6.9	(5.0)	2.438	(2.363)
Sheaf Steam	July 31	1,949c	(2,516)	18.3	(67.1)	2.374	(4.221)
Titaghur Jute	June 30	702La	(446)Lb	—	(—)	Nil	(Nil)
Town Centre Ses.	June 30	118	(162)	0.5	(0.6)	0.665	(0.623)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim dividends* per share (p)	
Amalg. Indstls.	June 30	720	(627)	0.75¶	(0.75)
Amber Industrial	Sept. 30	80	(57)	—	(—)
Ash Spinning	Sept. 27	18	(87)	1.0	(1.5)
Assed. Brit. Foods	Sept. 27	25,600	(18,700)	0.594	(0.556)
Beecham Group	Sept. 30	35,600	(27,800)	2.61	(2.45)
J. Billam	June 30	63	(141)	0.715	(0.737)
Bremar Hldgs.	Sept. 30	539	(344)	—	(—)
Bristol Eveng. Pst.	Sept. 30	348	(846)	—	(—)
British & Cmwlth.	June 30	5,812	(8,371)	3.445	(2.848)
Caledonia Invests.	Sept. 30	1,332	(1,216)	2.852	(2.297)
Chmbrlain. Phipps	Sept. 30	227	(864)	0.448	(0.448)
Commercial Union	Sept. 30	13,700§	(33,100)	—	(—)
Godfrey Davis	Sept. 30	1,246	(1,057)	0.7	(0.7)
Dawson Intnl.	Sept. 30	630	(970)	1.05	(1.05)
R. A. Dyson	Sept. 30	73	(37)	0.488	(0.508)
Edge Tool Inds.	Sept. 27	225	(312)	—	(—)
F.C. Construction	June 30	236	(181)	0.97	(0.89)
John Folkes Hefo	June 30	1,922	(1,551)	0.33	(0.3)
GEI International	Sept. 30	1,173	(1,186)	1.187	(1.187)
Grt. Portland Ests.	Sept. 30	1,190	(989)	1.0	(1.0)
Harwells Group	Aug. 31	395	(334)	1.005	(1.005)
H.A.T. Group	Aug. 31	1,178	(1,022)	0.65	(—)
C. E. Heath	Sept. 30	1,747	(1,056)	1.95	(1.83)
Hield Bros.	Sept. 28	107	(381)	—	(—)
House of Fraser	Oct. 25	9,629‡	(9,985)	—	(—)
Hoveringham Grp.	June 30	643	(322)	0.375	(Nil)
Humphries Hldgs.	Sept. 30	212L	(87)L	—	(—)
Interntl. Paint	Sept. 30	7,037	(5,758)	2.533	(2.374)
Land Securities	Sept. 30	4,205f	(3,743)	1.5	(1.5)
Thomas Locker	Sept. 30	687	(838)	0.175	(0.175)
London & Nthrn.	June 30	4,909	(3,462)	1.25	(1.25)
Ths. Marshall Invs.	Sept. 27	701	(639)	1.265	(1.185)
Marchwiel Hldgs.	Apr. 30	2,358	(1,809)	0.821	(0.779)
Metal Box	Sept. 30	12,010	(19,950)	5.3	(4.353)
Nat. Carbonising	Sept. 30	103	(545)	Nil	(Nil)
Nicholls (Vimto)	Sept. 30	204	(52)	3.5	(2.0)
P. Panto	June 13	200d	(140)	0.77	(0.7)
Plantation Hldgs.	June 30	706	(1,198)	0.78	(0.78)
Powell Duffryn	Sept. 30	3,317	(4,622)	2.5	(2.25)
Renold	Sept. 30	5,233	(6,458)	2.5	(2.5)
Rexmore	Sept. 30	543	(718)	1.103	(1.103)
I. D. & S. Rivlin	Aug. 31	210	(291)	1.17c	(1.206)
Robertson Foods	Sept. 30	872	(735)	1.12	(1.05)
Rotaprint	Sept. 30	57	(193)	1.019	(1.03)
R.T.D. Group	Aug. 31	140	(218)	2.8¶	(2.8)
Rowlinson Cstrns.	Sept. 30	321	(104)	0.6	(0.56)
Royal Insurance	Sept. 30	22,600§	(13,800)	—	(—)
Streeters	June 30	90	(493)L	0.5	(Nil)
S. & U. Stores	July 31	71	(60)	0.569	(0.586)
Time Products	July 31	970	(830)	0.35	(0.16)
Unerman Hldgs.	Sept. 30	306	(283)	1.4	(1.4)
Utd. Engineering	July 31	180	(153)	0.91	(0.503)
Viners	July 11	230†	(217)	0.422	(0.396)
Wheatsheaf	Sept. 13	1,597†	(1,007)	2.0	(1.55)
Wight Constrtn.	July 31	211	(206)	2.575	(2.5)
F. W. Woolworth	Oct. 31	21,706§	(16,124)	—	(—)
Wormalds Walker	Aug. 31	221L	(24)	Nil	(Nil)
Young & Co. Bwy.	Sept. 30	594	(490)	1.2	(1.0)

(Figures in parentheses are for corresponding period.)

Dividends shown net except where otherwise stated.

* Adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † For 28 weeks. ‡ For 39 weeks. § For 9 months. ¶ Gross. a For 18 months. b For 12 months. c Net. d For 24 weeks. e To be declared later in year. f Net income. L Loss.

[C]apital & Counties net worth falls £36m.

[LO]SS on capital account of [£36.35]m. (£1.81m. profit) was in[curred] by Capital and Counties [Proper]ty Company in the year [to] March 31, 1975. Of this 19.34m. is unrealised and [this] represents the fall in U.K. [proper]ty values.

[Refl]ecting the overall decline in [proper]ty values net group assets, [with] development properties at [cost,] slumped to £85.8m. [(£121.]35m.) or 114p (162p) per [share.]

[Tota]l group assets decreased [from] £435.57m. to £425.64m. in[cludin]g investment properties [at £29]4m. (£309.22m.). Long-term [borro]wings were up from [£16...]m. to £189.76m., and short-[term] amounted to £81.23m. [(£...]2m.).

[Com]pleted properties amounted [to £2]0.64m., and uncompleted at [cost] value were £94.8m. Commit[ments] were £47.08m. (£73.76m.).

[In] the depressed condition of [prope]rty markets at March 25, [it] is likely that the aggregate [marke]t value of properties held [which are] in course of development [at tha]t date in their existing un[comple]ted state would have been substantially below cost. The directors believe it is not appropriate to carry these properties in the accounts at such value but that the proper value to be considered is that which will obtain at the date of completion of the relevant development.

They are not able to anticipate the market conditions which will obtain at such completion dates, and, in these circumstances, they have continued the previous practice of carrying uncompleted investment properties at cost—no provision being made for any valuation deficiency which may arise on the completion of any development.

An auditors' qualification relating to those properties states it is likely that the present market value of certain properties at March 25, 1975, is substantially below their cost of £60.6m. shown in the balance sheet. Similar difficulties in forecasting future market conditions and costs over a long period apply to part of the stock building land, having a cost of £4.81m., held by a housebuilding subsidiary company. "Accordingly we are unable to determine whether the inclusion at cost of the group's development properties and the land referred to, is reasonable," the auditors' report adds.

Referring to the expansion of interests outside the U.K., the chairman, Sir Richard Thompson, says the only practicable method of financing those investments was by means of foreign currency loans. Much of this borrowing was arranged on a medium term basis (five to seven years) and part was funded by the issue in 1973 of $U.S.25m. of 15-year bonds. In addition to any specific security, terms on which certain of the loans were granted took account of the net asset value of the group and contained covenants that it would not fall below specified levels.

When most of the loans were negotiated, the group's net asset value was in excess of £115m., and there was good reason to expect this figure to increase as the development programme progressed and completed projects came to be valued.

But it became clear that the net asset value would decline below certain of the covenanted levels. Accordingly terms were renegotiated to achieve a reduction in those levels, including the provision of additional security and an undertaking by the company not to charge further U.K. and European assets.

In bringing their negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion, the company was assisted by the support of Union Corporation, the principal stockholder.

In pursuit of the policy of strengthening the cash position assets have been disposed realising £45m.

Sir Richard stresses that the economic recession, the abandonment of dvelopment schemes and the need to conserve resources has required a reappraisal of staffing levels and overheads generally. In consequence, headquarters staff has had to be reduced by some 20 per cent. and the same process of retrenchment is being applied in the whole field of operations, both here and overseas.

Group profit, before tax, amounted to £4,203,000 for the year, compared with £5,496,000 for the previous year, and net attributable revenue was £1,110,000, against £2,479,000.

A change in accounting policy, whereby the benefit of capital allowances in respect of assets not subject to depreciation has been credited to contingent tax reserve instead of to revenue, as in previous years (comparative figures for 1974 have been adjusted to conform) has reduced the revenue profit attributable by £1,729,0000, it is stated.

Basic earnings per 25p unit are shown at 1.47p, against 3.29p, and the dividend is a token payment of 0.01p net, against the 1973-74 total of 2.2475p.

No greater dividend will be paid until satisfactory financial arrangements relating to the U.K. development portfolio have been completed and a loan of approximately £8m.—maturing next August—repaid, the directors state. At that stage they will review the dividend policy.

	1974-75 £000	1973-74 £000
TURNOVER:		
Property holding	18,249	13,481
Property dealing	5,587	9,070
Estate development	27,772	16,164
Hotel operating	—	1,577
Manufacturing, etc.	5,127	5,388
Total turnover	56,736	47,680
PROFIT:		
Property holding	9,945	8,637
Property dealing	2,647	2,049
Estate development	5,549	2,623
Hotel loss	—	298
Manufacturing, etc.	817	338
Interest charges	14,834	7,861
Profit before tax	4,203	5,496
Taxation	2,798	2,323
Net revenue	1,405	3,173
Minority interests	295	694
Attributable	1,110	2,479
Preference dividend	7	7
Ordinary	7	1,691
Retained	1,096	781

See Lex

G. H. SCHOLES

At the annual meeting of George H. Scholes chairman Mr. G. R. C. McDowell, reported that some upturn in business was taking place and the company was well equipped to meet any demand as the economy of the country improved.

[R]ECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1975 High	1975 Low	Stock	Closing Price pence	+ or −	Div. P. or Amount	Times covered	Gross Yield	P/E Ratio
F.P.	—	169	115	Corn Exchange	115	......	h1.62	2.5	1.5	—
F.P.	7/11	380	275	Standard G'd Mini'g 20c	275	−15	—	—	—	—

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Amount Paid up	Latest Renunc. Date	1975 High	1975 Low	Stock	Closing Price	+ or −
£50	30/1	60	49½	Bristol (City of) 13¾% Deb. Stk. 1981	49½	......
£30	11/2	30¼	29½	Coventry City of 14½% Red. Stck. 1980	29¾	......
£10	—	13	11⅛	Essex Water 9% Red. Pref. 1981	11¾	......
F.P.	13/10	138½	115	Haslemere Ests. 8½% '90-5	127	......
£50	9/1	51½	49⅞	Islington 13¾% Red. Stk. 1980	50¾	......
£50	9/1	49¾	47½	Do. 14% Red. Stk. 1985/6	47½	......
F.P.	28/11	100	95¾	Lee Valley Water 9% Red. Pref. 1980	100	......
F.P.	—	100	98½	Midland Bank Float Cap Notes '82	100	......
F.P.	—	98	98	Noranda 9½% Notes 1980	$C.98	......
F.P.	—	102	97	Do.	$US.102	......
£25	23/1	28	26	Norcros 15¼% Deb. 1990/95	27½	−¼
F.P.	17/11	50¼p	46p	Single 10% Cum. Conv. Pref.	46p	......
F.P.	28/11	120	100	Sparella 14% Conv. 1990	113	......
F.P.	—	98	98	Trans Union Fin Can 10½% notes 1980	$C.98	......
F.P.	31/10	99½	98	York Waterworks 9% Red. Pref. 1980	99	......

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Amount Paid up	Latest Renunc. Date		1975 High	1975 Low	Stock	Closing Price p	+ or −
F.P.	14/11	5/12	35½	30	Amal. Distilled Products	31	......
F.P.	28/10	25/11	74	62	Babcock & Wilcox	69	−2
Nil	—	—	105	105	Berisford (S. & W.)	103pm	......
Nil	5/12	7/1	29	20	Berry Wiggins	23pm	−1
F.P.	14/11	5/12	146	128	Cape Inds.	138	−2
Nil	5/12	9/1	12½	9½	Charles (David)	9½pm	−1
F.P.	24/11	8/1	87	78	Debenhams	86	......
F.P.	30/10	28/11	73½	64	Grand Met. Hotels	72½	+1
Nil	1/2	7/1	212½	112½	Harrisons & Crosfields	112½pm	−25
F.P.	28/10	12/12	402	330	I.C. Gas	390	−4
Nil	—	—	40	30	Ibstock Johnsen	38pm	−2
Nil	17/12	16/1	128	118	Kwik-Save Discount	120	+2
F.P.	21/11	12/12	124	112	Minet Holdings	122	−1
F.P.	30/10	9/12	89	69	Northern Foods	69	−2
F.P.	3/11	3/12	39¾	25	Peacock Sasini	27	......
F.P.	24/11	30/1	39	35	Raybeck	38	......
Nil	19/12	—	3	Nil	Trust Bank Africa	Nil	......
F.P.	19/11	19/12	75	60½	Weir Group	74½	+½

[R]enunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. a Placing [price] to public. b Figures based on prospectus estimate. d Dividend rate paid or [paya]ble on part capital, cover based on dividend on full capital. p*** Pence [unles]s otherwise indicated. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's [earni]ngs. T Figures assumed. ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now [rank]ing for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividends. ** Issued by tender. [O]ffered to holders of Ordinary shares as a "rights." ♥ 290 S.Afr. cents. ⚘ Rights [o]ffered to holders of Ordinary shares as a "rights." ◆ Reintroduced. ‡‡ Issued in [by w]ay of capitalisation. ¶ Tender allotment price. ♣ Introduction. ♠ Issued to [conn]ection with reorganisation, merger or take-over. ‡ Allotment letters (or fully-paid). † Provisional or [pa]rtly-paid allotment letters. ≠ With warrants.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. N. Wills joins main Board of BET

Mr. Nicholas K. S. Wills has been appointed to the Board of the BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY. He has been a member of the executive staff since 1970.

★

Mr. David Shentall is to join the Board of WATSON AND PHILIP in the New Year and will be taking up a new executive appointment as divisional head of the group's delivered catering activities in the U.K. He joins the company from Oriel Foods where he has been managing director of the delivered wholesale division. Mr. John McGill will be retiring from the Board at the end of this month having reached the age of 65. Mr. Frank L. Philip will also be retiring from the Board at the annual meeting in March. Mr. Frank Keanie, head of the cash and carry division, and Mr. Edward Thompson, head of the delivered grocery division, will be proposed for election to the Board at the annual meeting.

★

Mr. Peter Macielinski has been appointed to the main Board of ADAMS FOODS as services director and will continue as manufacturing director of its subsidiary, Adams Biscuits. Mr. Alan Boardman, group deputy managing director, also assumes the new position of managing director of the provisions division and will be responsible for marketing policy within the group. Mr. Joe Lane is now managing director of the newly created Kerrygold Fresh Foods Division. From Jan. 1. Mr. Alan Woodruff will become group export manager.

★

Mr. John Bonallack has become a director of INTERPOOL (U.K.) and general manager of the company's operations in the U.K. and Southern Ireland. He was previously with Adamson and Hatchett.

★

Mr. W. P. Schmoe has been appointed executive vice president, CONOCO NORTH SEA INC. He succeeds Mr. G. J. Maier who has become a senior vice president of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company. Conoco North Sea Inc. is the London based exploration and production subsidiary of Continental Oil Company.

★

Mr. F. Taylor has resigned from the Board of ELLENROAD RING MILL.

★

Mr. Harold Baim, film producer, has been appointed Chief Barker (president) of the VARIETY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN for 1976, in succession to Sir Billy Butlin.

★

Mr. Brian P. Fletcher has been appointed marketing director of EVODE.

★

Mr. Derek Ware has been appointed production director and Mr. Christopher Ball personnel director of SCOT BOWYERS. Mr. Thomas Hindle becomes joint managing director and Mr. Michael Milicevic sales and marketing director and vice-chairman designate. The parent concern is Unigate.

★

Mr. T. S. Roberts is to become chairman of the MILFORD HAVEN CONSERVANCY BOARD from January 1 in succession to Mr. Hanning Philipps, who is retiring at his own request.

★

Mr. Neil Warden has been appointed a sales executive at SCHRODER COMPUTER SERVICES, a subsidiary of J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Co. He was previously with Computer Projects.

★

Mr. P. S. Plaisted retires from the Board of STANSAND HOLDINGS on November 30, but will still continue as an adviser. Mr. Peter Shaw will become managing director from December 1.

★

Mr. M. C. J. Neill has been appointed an associate director of MANAGEMENT DYNAMICS (HOLDINGS), the holding company of the Management Dynamics Group.

★

Mr. Michael Mead has been appointed marketing director and Mr. Brian Wilson, sales director, of OYEZ REPROGRAPHICS.

★

Mr. George A. Austen has been appointed managing director of SKANDIA INSURANCE (U.K. CONTACT OFFICE) and of Skandia U.K. Insurance Company.

★

Mr. M. J. Whatley has been appointed a director and Mr. M. E. O. Bailey an associate director of REED AND MALLIK.

WALL STREET + OVERSEAS MARKETS + CLOSING PRICES

City debts still unsettle stocks

BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, Nov. 21.

BURDENED with the fiscal problems of New York City and with worry that the Federal Reserve Board may tighten the screws on monetary policy, the stock market continued its slow, downward drift.

The monetary fears emerged after the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported a sharp increase in the U.S. money supply for the second week in a row. However, some economists attributed the rise in the money supply to seasonal factors, and did not expect it to have any impact on policy.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 2.75 to 840.76, while the NYSE Common Stock index surrendered 0.05 to 47.38. Declines led advances, 701 to 645. Turnover slowed to 14.11m. shares from 16.46m. on Thursday. The Stocks Index lost 0.71 to end at 258.27 and the Transport Index shed 0.53 ending at 170.80. Utilities were unchanged at 82.66.

Blue Chips were among the day's softest spots. International Paper was own $1¾ to $54, Dow Chemical lost $1¼ to $90¼. Atlantic Richfield fell $1¼ to $88. Exxon Corp. declined $1½ to $84¼, Standard Brands Paint lost $1 at $41¼, Digital Equipment also fell $1 to $128¾. Pepsico surrendered $1¼ to $70⅜, and Continental Illinois was $1 lower at $31¾.

Prices on the American Stock Exchange eased in light trading. The Amex index declined 0.15 to 84.37, while losers topped gainers, 293 to 264. Volume slowed to 1.39m. shares from 1.32m. shares on Thursday.

OTHER MARKETS

Canada lower

Canadian stocks turned marginally lower in quiet trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange with the Industrial Index off 0.19 at 176.13. The Western Oil index was off 2.15 at 198.76 while Golds lost 0.67 at 239.83. Base Metals only shed 0.09 to end at 72.88. The market volume was only 1.17m.

PARIS—The market gained ground for the most part at the start of the new account with only Banks and Chemicals mixed. But Credit Foncier lost Frs.5.6 and Cie Bancaire fell Frs.4. Carrefour and L'Oriol both made solid gains.

BRUSSELS—Rises predominated in quiet trading. Ebes, Gevaert, Mosane, Tessenderio, Cometra, Finoutremer, Tabacofina, Vieille Montagne and Acec rose, but FN and Wagons-Lits fell.

AMSTERDAM—Shares eased in featureless trading. Dutch Internationals eased as did Banks, Shippings and Stores. Berkel lost Fl.4.2 but Elsevior put on Fl.12.

FRANKFURT—Prices fell in very dull trading with virtually no buying interest. Electricals headed losses with BBC down DM4.10.

MILAN — The market closed generally higher in more active trading, led by Fiat. Trading was interrupted at mid-session by another bomb hoax.

ZURICH—The market was mixed to firmer in moderate turnover. Swissair edged higher while major banks ruled steady to very steady.

Insurances moved higher led by Zurich-Versicherung, but Rueckversicherung Bearer eased.

OSLO—Banks were steady while Insurances and Industrials were quiet.

VIENNA—Very steady.

COPENHAGEN — Generally higher although Shippings weakened.

HONG KONG.—The market eased further on lack of interest in very quiet trading.

TOKYO—The market ruled lower, with Blue Chips leading the decline and market averages fell.

AUSTRALIA—Markets closed firm with most leading Industrials and Minings higher. MIM was unchanged at $A1.90 following Thursday's recovery, but North BH, BH South, AM and S and Bougainville all rose.

JOHANNESBURG—Gold shares were easier in fairly active trading. Financial Minings were mixed. Coppers were untested with the exception of MTD (Mangula) which gained two cents to R155.

Indices

NEW YORK

DOW JONES AVERAGES

STANDARD AND POORS U.S. STOCK INDICES

		*Industrials	†Composite
Nov.	21	108.22	89.52
..	20	100.36	89.64
..	19	100.73	88.98
..	18	101.80	91.00
..	17	102.42	91.46
..	14	101.88	90.97
..	13	101.99	91.04
..	12	102.20	91.19
..	11	100.67	89.57
1975	High	107.40 (15/7)	96.91 (15/7)
1975	Low	77.1 (8/1)	70.74 (8/1)

* 425 Industrials. † 425 Industrials, 50 Utilities, 25 Rails.

STOCK AND BOND YIELDS

	Nov. 20 1975	Nov. 12 1975	Nov. 13 1974
Ind. Ord. yield pc	3.73	3.68	4.62
Ind. Ord. p/e ratio	11.84	12.02	8.46
Long-term Govt. Bds. per cent.	8.14	6.07	6.56

FRIDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
Westinghse Elec.	194,600	12¾	+⅛
Marcor Inc.	148,100	28¼	+⅛
Fairchild Camera	141,000	36¼	—
Gardenr Denve Co.	136,800	24½	−⅛
Texaco	133,400	22¾	+⅛
Exxon Corp.	126,700	84¼	−1½
Phillips Petrol	123,900	52½	−⅛
Polaroid	114,600	37	−1¼
Am. Tel. Tel.	110,000	50¼	+⅛
Gen. Motors	100,500	55¼	+⅛

TORONTO

INDUSTRIAL INDEX

Nov. 21	Nov. 20	1975 High	1975 Low
176.13	176.32	196.50 (15/7)	159.41 (2/1)

MONTREAL

INDUSTRIAL INDEX

Nov. 21	Nov. 20	1975 High	1975 Low
150.88	151.33	203.61 (15/7)	159.95 (2/1)

COMBINED INDEX

Nov. 21	Nov. 20	1975 High	1975 Low
178.21	178.48	195.00 (12/7)	156.05 (2/1)

JOHANNESBURG

	Nov. 21	Nov. 20	1975 High	1975 Low
Industrials	213.0	211.4	238.9 (16/7)	183.2 (23/1)
Gold	226.5	233.2	379.1 (2/1)	203.9 (10/9)

(1958=100.) Source: Rand Daily Mail.

AMERICAN SE MARKET VALUE INDEX

Starting base 100 Aug. 31, 1973.

1975 High	1975 Low	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17
96.80	62.20	84.37	84.52	84.68	85.40	85.60
Volume		1,590	1,520	1,670	1,810	1,740

RISES AND FALLS

New Highs	26	21	26	106	84
New Lows	25	18	17	25	14

MELBOURNE YIELDS

Av'ge Yield on 50 Leading Stocks	Nov. 21	Nov. 17	Nov. 6
On Dividends	6.49	6.45	6.59
On Earnings	10.85	11.43	11.01

SYDNEY ALL ORD. INDEX

TOKYO NEW SE INDEX

HONG KONG INDEX

SINGAPORE INDEX

EUROPE

OVERSEAS SHARE INFORMATION

NEW YORK

CANADA

GERMANY

MILAN

AUSTRALIA

TOKYO

COPENHAGEN

SWITZERLAND

PARIS

AMSTERDAM

JOHANNESBURG

BRUSSELS/LUXEMBOURG

STOCKHOLM

OSLO

VIENNA

SPAIN

November 19	Per cent.	
Asland	279	+2
Banco Lopez Quesada	768	−10
Banco Bilbao	857	−13
Banco Atlantico (1,000)	690	+1
Banco Central	875	−10
Banesto (250)	625	—
Banco Exterior	555	—

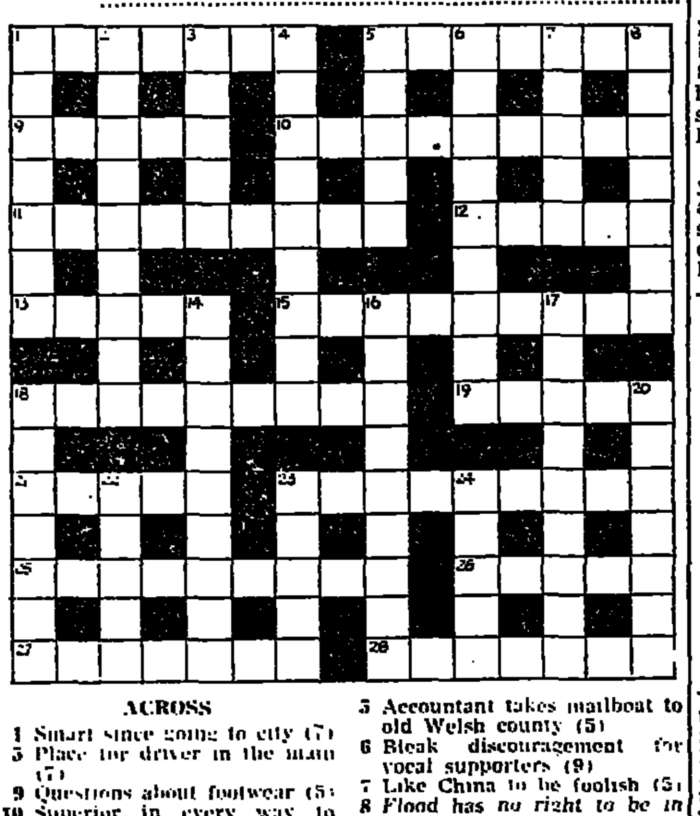
Grupo Velazquez (400)	409	—
Hidrola	174.50	−5.50
Iberduero	204	−8
Motor Iberica	225	−2
Olarra	564	−16
Petroliber	305	—
Sarrio Papalera	290	−6
Seat (1,000)	161	—
Sevillana Elec.	148	−6
Solace	115	−4

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 2,937

A prize of £3 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....



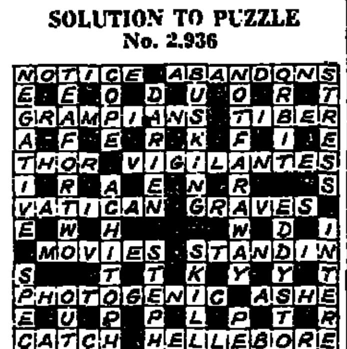
ACROSS

1 Smart since going to city (7)
5 Place for driver in the main (7)
9 Questions about footwear (5)
10 Superior in every way to gambler at a distance (3, 6)
11 Latter day Edwardians (5, 4)
12 Jingle sounds a bit of a frost (5)
13 Inclined to write unproductive third leader (5)
15 Stand for salesman to consider as an affront (9)
18 Pudding served before vegetable at flower show (5, 4)
19 Attack in two directions ought to work (5)
21 Result of letting Cockney female take action (5)
23 Petitioner is made to dine bending (9)
25 Cursing mother country (9)
26 Part of body of West-end drunk (5)
27 Source of power concerning player (7)
28 Perisher introduces doctor to man of property (7)

DOWN

1 Letter found at head of column (7)
2 I am to act as go-between without delay (9)
3 Like state trial by metallurgist (5)
4 Astray on leaving lectures (3, 6)
5 Accountant takes mailboat to old Welsh county (5)
6 Bleak discouragement for vocal supporters (9)
7 Like China to be foolish (5)
8 *Flood has no right to be in river* (7)
14 A shoemaker has to work until death (2, 3, 4)
16 Put off by job Post Office gave to Edward (9)
17 *Calling up one quarter by profession* (9)
18 English poet with no saving virtues (7)
20 Camper putting up tent in jug (7)
22 *South African doctor* has a dance (5)
23 Highball for sportsman at Chamonix (5)
24 Chance to win game (5)

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 2,936



SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 2,931

Following are the winners of last Saturday's prize puzzle:

Mrs. Constance Kilduff, 14, Knocknacree Park, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Mrs. D. Oldfield, 32, Deneside Avenue, Low Fell, Gateshead 9, Tyne and Wear.

Mr. L. Wilkes, 20, Burrow Hill, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon, PL9 9LE.

RACING BY DOMINIC WIGAN

Moonlight Escapade difficult to beat

MOONLIGHT ESCAPADE, a high-class handicapper with a fine Newbury record, can gain his third victory on the Berkshire track in to-day's £10,000 Hennessy Gold Cup (2.25).

Michael Scudamore's nine-year-old, who finished a respectable third behind Royal Marshall II and Iceman in the corresponding event a year ago has had only one race to date in the current campaign. This was in the three-mile Rosy Brook Handicap here a month ago. Always travelling smoothly in that event, *Moonlight Escapade*, the subject of heavy backing, held on well to defeat Advocate, to whom he was conceding 19 lbs., by half a length, with the remainder well held.

NEWBURY
12.45—Boy Desmond
1.15—Shock Result
1.45—Banlieu***
2.25—Moonlight Escapade*
2.55—Accord
3.25—Perucio

NEWCASTLE
12.30—Cromwell Road
1.00—Lingus
1.30—Comedy of Errors
2.00—Greystoke Rambler
2.30—Delanto
3.00—Indian Emperor

WOLVERHAMPTON
2.15—Donohill**
3.15—Il Magnifico

The additional quarter mile of to-day's race will suit Moonlight Escapade ideally, and with the fast ground, on which he landed the Rosy Brook Chase, prevailing, Scudamore's gelding will be difficult to contain. I hope to see him win at the main expense of *Credo's Daughter* and *Rough House*. The last-named, a comfortable winner at Wincanton recently, may provide the chief *threat to the selection.*

Forty minutes before the Hennessy it could pay backers to take a chance with *Banlieu* in the Berkshire Hurdle (1.45), for which *Philominsky* will probably be a firm favourite. Although he has not had the benefit of a previous run this term Banlieu is in fine fettle, and will not fail on the score of fitness.

The champion hurdler, *Comedy of Errors*, who was beaten by the fitter Lanzarote in Ascot's Kirk and Kirk Hurdle eight days ago, reappears in Newcastle's *Fighting Fifth* Hurdle (1.30)—a race he won with a good deal in hand from Attivo in 1974. Comedy of Errors may not find the concession of four lbs. to Sea Pigeon easy, but I cannot see him failing.

Half an hour later Sea Pigeon's stablemate, *Greystoke Rambler*, appears to be the one to be on in the Embassy Premier Chase Qualifier (2.0). An impressive winner from Devil's Soldier over two miles at Carlisle a fortnight ago, Greystoke Rambler will be well suited by the additional half mile to-day, and he should prove too fast for the opposition, which may be headed by the much-improved Forest King.

At Wolverhampton, where *Donohill* is a confident choice for the Staveley Chase (2.15), in which Royal Frolic and Tudor Abbe are the only other runners, *Il Magnifico* represents one of the safest bets of the day in Division II of the weakly contested Tower Novices' Hurdle (3.15).

HONOUR FOR OIL MAN

Mr. Bob Dyk, U.K. manager of Hamilton Brothers, which was the first company to bring oil ashore from the North Sea, was yesterday presented with the insignia of his honorary CBE by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Energy Secretary.

CLIPPER RACE BY ALEC BEILBY

Crews prepare for voyage home

THE CREWS of Great Britain II and the French ketch ... II continue preparing yachts for the return from Sydney to London. ...spitable Sydney yachting ...ity is recovering from the ... of welcoming receptions ...bracing itself for the ... of the Italian schooner ...B II, due in Sydney next ...

...r II has now been slipped north of Sydney harbour, ...er skipper, Olivier de ...son, is working his crew ... the clock to repair the ...image caused by the col... with a whale several hun... miles south-east of the ...f Good Hope.

...collision split the hull, ...e resulting problems of ...sation have meant that ...rable renovations have be made.

French crew, although ... time off, is determined ...h the task, and then will holiday before the restart ...ember 21.

...ction

Mullender, the new skip... Great Britain II, has ... thorough inspection of ...ging of his yacht, and has ...red hairline fatigue cracks that could have cost them the mast during the voyage home.

His crew and their friends are busy both in Australia and Britain trying to raise funds for 14 new sails needed if they are to hold off the French, only five hours behind them when they start for Britain.

The successful crew who sailed Great Britain II to Australia will arrive in England next Saturday and attend a reception the following day at St. Katherine's yacht haven, from which they set sail in August. Not only did they beat the French on a boat-for-boat basis, but also beat the 69-day record for the voyage to Sydney under sail set by the clipper Patriarch.

In storms

Henk Huisman, skipper of the Dutch yacht Great Escape, has talked to the Financial Times from the Southern Ocean 700 miles south-west of Western Australia, and reported that his yacht continues to be attacked by at least three storms each week, but he still expects to reach Sydney by the end of the first week in December.

Whether his crew will be able to carry out preparations for the return in the two weeks left to them remains to be seen.

Some of the crew of Great Britain II repair damaged sails while others relax.

Meanwhile in Sydney, the French crew has been sailing aboard Great Britain II, and Olivier de Kersauson, whose Breton sense of humour has captivated the Australians, predicts that he will beat the British back from Sydney by a precise 22 hours.

He breaks this down to a 30-hour lead into the English Channel, and a loss of eight hours on the 300 miles from Brittany to Dover. He already has a shirt printed with the words "Remember Hastings" ready for his triumphant arrival.

If the leaders are to equal or beat the record time of a further 69 days, again held by Patriarch, they may arrive at Dover on February 29.

...E BORDER & SOUTHERN ...OCKHOLDERS TRUST ...MITED

...agers—JOHN GOVETT & CO. LTD.

... year summary of results

...ar ended September	Per Share Earnings	Per Share Dividend	Per Share Asset Value including 100% Currency Premium
...971	5.71p	5.75p	281.4p
...972	5.87p	6.00p	321.8p
...973	4.70p	4.30p	303.1p
...974	5.36p	4.50p	163.8p
...975	5.69p	4.80p	273.6p

...he figures of earnings and dividend for 1971 and 1972 ...ot comparable with subsequent years owing to the change ...e system of taxation.

Total Net Resources £59,827,518

U.K. 60.0% North America 31.0%

...its from Mr. C. W. Garnett's review

...e year to 30th September, 1975 has shown a very welcome ...ovement in the leading stockmarkets of the world. In ... major economies inflation rates have, temporarily at ... declined and in the U.K. the acceleration of the inflation has been halted.

...e Board recommend a final dividend of 3.05p which ...her with the interim dividend of 1.75p makes 4.8p ...st 4.5p last year. Earnings per share are 5.69p (allowing ...conversion of the convertible ordinary shares) leaving ...ncreased dividend adequately covered.

...e Board consider that a heavy overseas weighting, both ...t and indirect, continues to be desirable and will continue ... so, until the economic performance of the U.K. is on ... with that achieved elsewhere in the free world.

Yachtsmen in fight for Nelson's bacon

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

THE CREW of Great Britain II have sailed into a political argument between London and Sydney over their supplies of bacon. Now taking stores on board at Sydney for the second leg of the race, they sent a message to the Yorkshire Farmers' Bacon Factory at Malton for further supplies of bacon "as eaten by Nelson."

But the message was intercepted by the Australian Customs, who telexed the Yorkshire factory stating that no Yorkshire bacon was allowed into Australia.

Mr. Fraser Lyon, general manager of the factory, said: "We cured some bacon for the crew on their way out to Australia. It lasted them all the way and naturally they want a similar consignment for the homeward journey. But the Australian Customs authority have intervened, and top-level talks are going on at the present to see if they will bend the rules."

The bacon—about 150 lbs—is in storage near RAF Lyneham waiting for Customs clearance before it is flown out by the RAF to the yachtsmen.

Mr. Lyon said: "The Australian High Commissioner in London is doing all he can to help after my latest telex to him, which read 'extremely disturbed at Australia's attempt to sabotage chances of Great Britain II by refusing entry of essential stores, to wit, bacon as eaten by Nelson. Request your assistance of special clearance of this product soonest.' However, he can't act without clearance from Australia."

The bacon has taken three months to cure by a method said to be the same used by the ancient mariners. "It has to be cured this way because there is no refrigeration on board and it has to withstand tropical temperatures," said Mr. Lyon.

...MMODITIES/Review of the week

...olombia fears boost coffee

...OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

...IGHT REPORTS that ...image could trim up to ... cent off this year's ...ian coffee crop sparked off ...p rise on the London ...l market yesterday. The ... position ended the day ...her at £724.5 a tonne, up ... the week.

Colombian crop was pre... estimated at around ...onnes but local growers ...lieve it could slip as low ...n. Though the Angolan ...n is still a source of grave ..., dealers this week noted ...t-term influence tended to ...ding with improved load... ...rformance in the port of ...

...ondon, meanwhile, pro... ...n the drafting of a new ...tional coffee agreement ...ntinued at a very slow ... The producer/consumer group which is attempting ...w up a draft pact met ...lay morning but no break... ...h was reported. As a ... the talks, which were due ... yesterday, will now con... ...ver the week-end and next ...

...ove towards the prepara... ...of a new international ... agreement has also been made following two weeks of talks in London. The International Sugar Organisation's secretariat is to continue its preparation of the basis for a new pact with the assistance of specially drafted experts.

Cocoa prices moved up sharply yesterday after having slipped back earlier in the week. The March position gained £11.75 to finish £9.25 up on balance at £634.5 a tonne. Chartist buying was reported to be the major influence in yesterday's rise, which was also encouraged by indications of a cut in the Ivory Coast crop and expectations of lower Ghana main crop purchases for this week.

Metal prices generally took a downward trend on the London Metal Exchange this week. Continued poor demand, and rising warehouse stocks, depressed copper prices. Cash wirebars ended the week £8.75 down at £566.5 a tonne.

The Council of Copper Exporting Countries (Cipec) meeting in Lima agreed to extend the 15 per cent cutback in output until next June.

Tin values in London and Penang were initially higher, following the move by the International Tin Council to provide its buffer stock with a further £20m. stand-by credit.

But the market reacted sharply after the Penang price moved briefly into the middle price range of the Tin Agreement, in which the buffer stock cannot operate.

Zinc was unsettled by the lack of producer support, and rumours about the European producers' price being threatened. As a result cash zinc lost £4 during the week to £340.75 a tonne.

...KLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest price per ton unless stated	Ch'ge on week	Year ago	1975 High	1975 Low		Latest price per ton unless stated	Ch'ge on week	Year ago	1975 High	1975 Low
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Spices Cloves	£2,550	—50	£2,380	£2,600	£2,350

MARKET REPORTS

BASE METALS

COPPER—Lower again on the London Metal Exchange. Prices were easier from the outset reflecting the poor closing level of the U.S. market overnight. Forward metal ... [illegible]

FREIGHTS

DRY CARGO—A slight improvement in activity had no effect on rate levels which remain generally unchanged. Grain cargoes were covered from the U.S. Gulf to St. Nazaire at $11.75 f.i.o. for Nov./Dec. also at $10.85 f.i.o. for Dec and from Northern Range to Poland at $10 f.i.o. for Dec. A cargo of grain was booked from the U.S. Gulf to Taiwan at $20.50 f.i.o. for Nov./Dec. while a vessel was arranged for two consecutive grain voyages from the U.S. Gulf to the Netherlands at $5.50 f.i.o. for Dec. Elsewhere 20,000 long tons grain from Paranagua to Ghent/Hamburg paid $260,000 f.i.o. for Nov. Ore shippers fixed cargoes from San Nicolas, Peru to Bakar at $6.25 f.i.o. for Jan. and from Dampier to the Continent at $8.10 f.i.o. for Dec. Timecharterers booked a vessel of 21,550 long d.w.t. from Indonesia to the Continent at $3,500 daily Nov./Dec.

SILVER

Silver was fixed 2.1p an ounce lower for spot delivery in the London bullion market yesterday at 209.1p. U.S. cent equivalents of the fixing levels were: spot 427.6c, down 4.2c; three-month 435.6c, down 4.4c; six-month 444.3c, down 5.3c; and 12-month 463.3c, down 6.7c. The metal opened at 208-209p (425-427½c), and in a steady but active day's trading saw a high of 208.6-209.6p (426½-429½c) before reverting to its opening level of 208-209p (425-427½c) at the close.

SILVER per troy oz.	Bullion fixing prices	+ or —	L.M.E. close	+ or —
Spot	209.1p	—2.1	208.7p	—2.4
3 months	215.5p	—2.3	215.05p	—2.8
6 months	222p	—2.7	—	......
7 months	—	......	224.85p	—2.7
12 months	235.5p	—3.4	—	......

LME—Turnover 227 (219) lots of 10,000 ozs. Morning: Three months 215.0, 14.9, 15.5. Kerbs: three months 215.3. Afternoon: Three months 214.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.7, 14.8, 15.0, 15.1. Kerbs: three months 215.0, ...

GRAINS

THE BALTIC—Featureless trading conditions persisted throughout the imported grain market and price trends showed little change.

Wheat—U.S. Dark Northern Spring No. 2, 14 per cent., Jan. £97.15, Feb. £97.85, March £98.60, direct Tilbury April/mid-May £96.95, May £96.80, June £96.60, July £96.90, transhipment East Coast sellers. EEC Feed Nov. £63.00, Dec. £63.50 East Coast.

Maize—No. 3 Yellow American/French Nov. £65.00, Dec. £65.50, Jan. £68.50 transhipment East Coast sellers. South African White Jan. £68.25, Feb. £68.50, March £66.75 U.K. South African Yellow Jan. £67.25, Feb. £67.50, March £67.75 U.K.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES MARKET (GAFTA)—Wheat, steady. Close: Nov. 62.35, Jan. 63.85, March 65.45, May 67.00, Sept. 66.30. Business: Nov 62.25-61.95, Jan. 64.00-63.75, March 65.55-65.30, May 67.05-66.95, Sept. 66.50-66.40. Barley, steady. Close: Nov. 60.05, Jan. 61.75, March 63.85, May 65.45, Sept. 65.00. Business: Nov. 60.15-59.00, Jan. 61.85-61.80, March 63.90-63.80, May 65.55-65.45, Sept. 65.10-65.00.

HGCA—Location ex-farm spot prices. Feed wheat: Lancashire £62.60, Kent £60.95. Feed barley: Lancashire £60.95, Kent £58.10.

RUBBER

UNCHANGED opening on the London physical market. Quiet at lower levels, closing dull. Lewis and Peat reported a godown price of 147½ Malaysian cents (buyer December).

No. 1 R.S.S.	Yesterday's close	Previous day's close	Business done
Dec	55.75-55.00	55.80-54.25	—
Jan.	54.15-55.10	54.00-54.75	—
Jan. Mr.	55.10-55.50	55.10-54.15	55.70
Apr-Jne	56.90-57.00	56.75-56.85	56.90
Jly-Sept	57.90-58.00	57.90-57.95	58.00-57.90
Oct-Dec	58.85-59.20	58.90-58.95	58.20-59.00

—Spanish: Per tray 1.70-1.90. Lemons—Italian: 4.00-4.20; South African: 4.50-5.00; Greek: 4.00-4.50; Turkish: 2.70-3.20; Cyprus: 4.00-4.50. Grapefruit—Dominican: 2.00-2.50; Cyprus: 2.60-3.20; Jaffa: 3.10-3.60; Belize: 1.80; Florida: Ruby 4.00; Jamaican: 2.00-2.30. Apples—French: Per 20-lb Golden Delicious 72/84 1.70-1.80, per 20-lb Starking 1.50, Granny Smith 72/84 2.30-2.50; Danish: Per pound McIntosh Red 0.10. Pears—Italian: Per pound Williams 0.11-0.12, Passacrassana 0.10. Pineapples—South African: 9/15 2.00-2.40.

English Produce: Lettuce—Per 12, round 0.60-0.70. Potatoes—Per 56-lb 2.70, Edwards 2.80-2.90. Cabbages—Per bag, Primo 0.80-1.00. Apples—Per pound Cox's Orange Pippin 0.06-0.10, Russets 0.05-0.07, Bramley's 0.06-0.08, Derbys 0.05-0.06, Laxton's 0.06-0.07. Celery—Per 12, 0.80, prepacked 2/25 2.40. Sprouts—Per pound 0.06-0.07. Beetroot—Per 12-lb 0.70-0.80. Onions—Per 56-lb 2.70-2.80. Swedes—Per 28-lb Devon 0.50. Carrots—Per 28-lb 0.60. Pears—Per pound Conference 0.09-0.11, Comice 0.11-0.12. Parsnips—Per 28-lb 1.30-1.70. Cauliflowers—Per 12 1.20-1.60.

WOOL FUTURES

LONDON—Market quiet and about unchanged, Bache reports.

(Pence per kilo)

Australian Greasy wool	Yesterd'y's close	+ or —	Business Done
December	168.5-78.0	+0.25	—
March	174.0-78.0	......	—
May	175.5-78.5	+0.25	—
July	180.0-82.0	+1.0	—
October	188.0-89.5	—0.5	189.0
December	190.0-90.5	+0.25	190.0
March	191.0-92.0	—1.25	191.0

Sales: 14 (9) lots of 1,500 kilos.

SYDNEY GREASY (in order: buyer, seller, business)—Dec. 248.1-248.5, 249.0-247.6; March 259.5-259.8, 260.3-258.5; May 267.0-267.5, 269.5-266.0; July 270.1-270.5, 271.0-269.4; Oct. 274.0-274.5, 275.0-273.2; Dec. 279.2-279.5, 279.5-277.3; March 280.5-281.5, 281.5-279.6. Total sales 381.

U.S. Markets

Cocoa goes up sharply on rumours

NEW YORK, Nov. 21.

PRECIOUS METALS closed lower once again easing under the weight of steady speculative liquidation. Cocoa rallied sharply on rumours of Russian purchases and predictions of a lower Ivory Coast crop. Commission House and commercial buying lifted grain futures, while steady speculative liquidation eased copper once again. Coffee and sugar were unable to open as a result of a communications blackout, Bache reports.

Cocoa—Bahia spot 61½ (60½). Ghana spot 70½ (68½). Dec. 59.70 (57.60), March 56.10 (54.10), May 54.30, July 53.15, Sept. 52.00, Dec. 51.20, March 50.35 settlements. Sales 1,443.

Copper—Nov. 52.60 (53.20), Dec. 52.70 (53.20), Jan. 53.30, March 54.40, May 55.50 settlements. Sales 3,367.

Cotton—Dec. 54.25-54.30 (54.22), March 56.70-56.84 (56.47), May 57.90, July 58.40, Oct. 57.10-57.25, Dec. 56.55-57.00, March 57.20-57.50, May 57.30 bid. Sales 3,500.

*Gold—Nov. 140.80 (141.50), Dec. 141.10 (141.80), Jan. 141.60, Feb. 142.60, April 144.40, June 146.30, Aug. 149.30, Oct. 150.30, Dec. 152.30, Feb. 154.30. Sales 1,070.

Greasewool—Spot 158.0 nom. (same). Dec. 155.0-162.0 (153.0), March 155.0 bid (150.5), May 152.0-158.0, July 152.0-155.0, Oct. 149.0-155.0, Dec. 149.0-155.0, March 150.0 bid.

†Lard—Chicago loose 21 asked (same). NY prime steam 22½ nom. (24½ nom.)

††Maize—Dec. 265-265½ (261), March 272-272½ (268), May 278½-278½, July 278-278½, Sept. 271, Dec. 263½, March 270½.

‡Platinum—Jan. 145.50 (148.40), April 148.70 (148.60), July 152.50, Oct. 156.20-156.30, Jan. 159.70-159.60, April 163.30-163.40. Sales 88.

‡‡Silver—Spot 425.50 (433), Nov. 425.50 (425.50), Dec. 425.60 (425.80), Jan. 427.90, March 434.60, May 441.70, July 449.60, ...

This week's SE dealings

Friday, November 21	7,079	Wednesday, November 19	8,820	Monday, November 17	8,287
Thursday, November 20	7,665	Tuesday, November 18	9,647	Friday, November 14	7,757

The list below records all yesterday's markings and also the latest markings during the week of any share not dealt in yesterday. The latter can be distinguished by the date (in parentheses).

The number of dealings marked in each section follows the name of the section. Unless otherwise denoted shares are £1 fully paid and stock £100 fully paid. Stock Exchange securities are quoted in pounds and fractions of pounds or in new pence and fractions of new pence.

The list below gives the prices at which bargains done by members of The Stock Exchange have been recorded in The Stock Exchange Daily Official List. Members are not obliged to mark bargains, except in special cases, and the list cannot, therefore, be regarded as a complete record of prices at which business has been done. Bargains are recorded in the Official List up to 2.15 p.m. only, but later transactions can be included in the following day's Official List. No indication is available as to whether a bargain represents a sale or purchase by members of the public. Markings are not necessarily in order of execution, and only one bargain in any one security at any one price is recorded.

• Bargains at Special Prices. Δ Bargains done with or between non-members. ⊕ Bargains done previous day. † Bargains done with members of a recognised Stock Exchange. ♣ Bargains done for delayed delivery or "no buying-in." $A—$Australian; $B—$Bahamian; $C—$Canadian; $HK—$Hong Kong; $J—$Jamaican; $Ma—$Malaysian; $Me—$Mexican; $NZ—$New Zealand; $S—$Singapore; $US—$United States; $WI—$West Indian.

Commons walk-out by anti-Franco MPs

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MPs staged a boycott of the Commons yesterday in protest at the Prime Minister's decision to send a Cabinet Minister to represent the Government at General Franco's funeral.

The decision was criticised publicly by a Minister, Miss Joan Lestor, who wrote to Mr. Wilson. Miss Lestor, a member of the Labour Party national executive and a leading Left-winger, is a junior Minister at the Department of Education and Science.

A number of backbenchers were present to hear Mrs. Barbara Castle, Secretary for Social Services, open the day's debate on the Queen's Speech, but when they learned that Mr. Wilson was still insisting on sending Lord Shepherd to Madrid despite party protests they decided to quit the Commons for the day.

In the end only one Labour backbencher, Mr. Alan Lee Williams (Hornchurch), spoke during the four-hour debate in which ten Conservatives, three Scottish Nationalists and one Liberal made speeches.

Mr. James Wellbeloved (Erith and Crayford) said he had telephoned Downing Street yesterday morning to protest against the Government's decision. When he gave the impression there would be no change of mind he decided to help organise the boycott of the debate.

Mr. Wilson is sticking by his decision to send Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal, because he believes the Government should make a gesture of friendship to Spain on the death of General Franco.

● A petition signed by 80 members of the Labour Party HQ staff was delivered to No. 10 Downing Street, asking Mr. Wilson to think again about sending a Cabinet Minister to the funeral.

Prentice sends last appeal to NEC

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY CORRESPONDENT

MR REG PRENTICE, the moderate Labour Minister disowned by his constituency at Newham North East, made a final forlorn attempt yesterday to persuade the Labour Party's national executive committee to help him reverse the decision.

He announced that he had written to every member of the committee ahead of next Wednesday's meeting when his appeal against the Newham decision to seek a new candidate at the next election comes up for consideration.

Clearly Mr. Prentice, whose outspoken comments have alienated many of his friends in recent weeks, accepts that he has little chance of gaining the backing of the Left-wing orientated executive. In a Press statement, he said that he was "profoundly disturbed" at the way his case had been handled.

He claimed he had received no assurance that he would be heard personally, that his written submission had not been circulated to members of the NEC, and that he had not been allowed to see a Transport House report on his case.

The widespread view of Labour MPs is that, as the Newham North East constituency followed all the party rules in seeking to remove Mr. Prentice, his only hope lies in reversing that decision at constituency level.

In his statement Mr. Prentice welcomed this week's executive election results in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and called on moderates in other unions to be more active.

Thomson Hemel papers lost £½m. in 1974

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL

THE THOMSON Organisation's newspapers at Luton and Watford lost more than £500,000 last year, staff have been told, and expected losses for 1975 may be as high as £800,000.

Launched in 1967 and printed at Thomson's Hemel Hempstead plant, the Evening Echo, which serves the Watford area, and the Evening Post, of Luton, incorporated some of the most advanced newspaper technology then available. Both are computer-set and printed by web-offset.

Mr. David Cole, chief executive of Thomson Regional Newspapers, has told senior staff that the plant at Hemel Hempstead will not be closed, but that the newspapers' costs must be slashed by about £500,000 yearly. Some redundancies are expected, but these will be kept to an "absolute minimum."

Producing nearly 60 newspapers and 10m. copies a week, Thomson Regional Newspapers is the U.K.'s largest provincial newspaper publisher in turnover terms.

The audited daily circulation of the Evening Echo for the first six months of this year was 50,724 copies; that of the Evening Post 53,736.

A spokesman said last night: "The hard fact is that although advertising revenues are in line with those forecast when the papers were launched eight years ago, they have been swamped by inflation and operating costs."

The company is to hold further meetings with employees on December 2.

A suggestion that there might be as many as 150 redundancies at Hemel Hempstead was disputed last night by journalists and management.

WATERWORKS

Bournemouth 3.5pc 31 (20/11)
Bristol 3.5pcPf. 30 (19/11). 4pcCons.Db. 23 (18/11)
Chester 4.55pcPf. 44 (19/11)
Colne Valley 2.8pcCons.Pf. 25½ (20/11).
East Anglian 2.8pcPf. 24 (20/11). 10pcPf. 16 ¼ (19/11)
East Worcestershire Wtrwrks. 2.8pc 22½ (20/11)
Essex Water 3.5pc Cons. 33¼ 1¼ (20/11) 3.5pcPf. 34½⊕ ¼⊕ (20/11). 3.5pcPf. 1972-77 84 (17/11). 4.2pcPf. 56¾ (17/11). 9pcPf. (£10 pd.) 11⅞ ⅞ ¾ 12 (19/11). 4pcPerp.Db. 22½⊕ (20/11)
Lee Valley Water 3.5pc 30 (20/11) 3.85pcPf. 54½⊕ (20/11). 4pcIrrd.Db. 23 (17/11)
Mid Kent Water 3.5pc Max. 31½
Newcastle Gateshead Water 4.025pcPf. 59¾ (17/11)
North Surrey Water 9½pcDb. 65⊕
Portsmouth Water 3.5pcOrd. 29¾ (20/11). 2.1pcPf. 17 (18/11)
Rickmansworth Uxbridge Valley Water 2.8pcCons Pf. 26¼⊕ 7⊕ (20/11)
S. Staffordshire WW 2.1pcPf 30½⊕ ½⊕ (20/11). 4.2pcPf. 54¼ (17/11). 10pc Pf. 107 (20/11). 7½pcDb. 54 (19/11)
Sunderland S Shields Wtr. 7pcDb. 54½ (17/11). 7¼pcDb. 55¼ (19/11)
Tendring Hundred Wtrwrks. 3.5pc Max. New Ord. 275 (17/11)
West Hampshire Water 3.5pc Ord. 29 (18/11). 3.15pcPf. 56½ (18/11)
West Kent Water 4.025pcPf 53

SPECIAL LIST

NOVEMBER 21 (Nil)

NOVEMBER 20 (4)

Jersey Electricity 7pcLn. 1977-79 73⊕
Wolverhampton Die Casting Grp. 6pc Cum.Pf. 15½

NOVEMBER 19 (2)

Rivoli Cinemas Ld p300⊕

NOVEMBER 18 (Nil)

NOVEMBER 17 (Nil)

RULE 163 (1) (e)

Bargains marked under Rle 163 (1) (e) in securities for which quotation has not been granted and which are not recorded in the Official List.

NOVEMBER 21

Acmex Hldgs. 24
Abitibi Paper 722
American Mng. smltg. 134
American Telephone Tel. £40⅛
Anglo Utd. Devs. 57½⊕
Argo Invs. 127⊕ 8
Aust. Foundation 78
Aust. Guarantee 158
Bk. NSW 645⊕ 55
Bell Tel. Can. $C43
Bow Valley £11⊕
Brunswick Cpn. $US11⅛⊕
Chromalloy Cpn. 5pcPf. $US54¾
Colonial Sugar Refineries New 187⊕ 92 90
Commercial Bk. Aust. 268
Containers 160
Disney Walt Prods. $US51⅛⊕
Dunlop (Aust.) 96
Eastman Kodak $US106⅝⊕
Florida Power Light £21⅞⊕

(By permission of the Stock Exchange Council)

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1975

The following securities (numbers in parentheses) among those quoted in the Share Information Service yesterday attained new highs and lows for 1975.

NEW HIGHS (100)

BRITISH FUNDS (6)
Treas. 3pc 1977 — Treas. 3½pc 77-80
Exchqr. 5pc 76-78 — Treas. 11½pc 1981
Electric 4¼pc 74-79 — Treas. 3½pc 79-81

FOREIGN BONDS (1)
Rumanian 4pc

AMERICANS (3)
Owens-Illinois — Richardson-Merrill
Quaker Oats

CANADIANS (1)
Massey Ferguson

BANKS (1)
Copenhagen Handles

BEERS (2)
Morland — Wolv. Dudley

BUILDINGS (6)
BPB Inds. — Southerns-Evans
Do. 7¼pcCv. 89-94 — Tilbury Contracting
Johnson-Rich. Tiles. — Vibroplant

CHEMICALS (2)
Brit. Tar Prods. — Yorkshire Chems.

CINEMAS (1)
Grampian 'A'

STORES (8)
Blackman and Conrad — Lincroft Kilgour
Bolton Text — Martin Newsagent
Geller (A. J.) — Upton (E.) 'A'
Hall and Earl — Wades 'A'

ELECTRICALS (1)
Dorman Smith 'A'

ENGINEERING (13)
Allen (E.) Balfour — Hartle Mach.
Branam Millar — Neill (Jas.)
Chalmers (E.) — Priest (Ben.)
Dartmouth Invs. — RCF
Firth (G. M.) — Senior Eng.
Haden Carrier — Ward (T. W.)
Hall Thermotank

FOODS (3)
Bassett (G.) — RHM
Meat Trade Supplies

INDUSTRIALS (22)
Barget (I.) — Leisure Caravan
Beecham — Lighting & Leisure
Borg Warner — Macarthys Pharm.
Brammer (H.) — Myson Group
De La Rue — Petrocon
Fairbairn Lawson — Richards Sheffield
Fine Art Dev. — Ropner 'A'
Granada 'A' — Somic
Hirst & Mallinson — Staffs. Potts.
Jentique — Unicorn Inds.
LCP — Warsham's

INSURANCES (1)
Provident 'B'

MOTORS (5)
Brown Bros. — CGSB
Dunlop — Gates (F. G.)
Brit. Car Auction

NEWSPAPERS (3)
Collins (Wm.) — BPM 'A'
Do. 'A'

SHIPPING (1)
Runciman (W.)

SHOES (1)
Pittard Group

TEXTILES (8)
Allied Textiles — Hollas Group
Beckman (A.) — Mackay (Hugh)
Dawson Intnl. — Radley Fashions
Do. 'A' — Vita-Tex

TOBACCOS (1)
Rothman's Intnl.

TRUSTS (7)
City of Oxford — Scot. Eastern Inv.
Claverhouse — El-Oro
Estate Duties — Exploration
Raeburn

OILS (2)
Anglo-Ecuador — Southern Pacific

MINES (1)
Petaling

NEW LOWS (8)

AMERICANS (2)
Chase Manhattan — Chrysler

SOUTH AFRICANS (1)
Gold Fields Prop.

OILS (1)
Ball and Collins

MINES (4)
Rand Leases — Harmony
Deelkraal — Falcon

RISES AND FALLS YESTERDAY

	Up	Down	Same
British Funds	22	1	32
Corpns. Dom. and Foreign Bonds	4	7	60
Industrials	346	312	1,073
Financial and Prop.	100	117	380
Oils	12	7	14
Plantation	5	8	34
Mines	18	69	66
Recent Issues	3	11	21
Totals	510	532	1,680

ACTIVE STOCKS

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on week	1975 high	1975 low
ICI	£1	95	320	+19	323	118
Shell Transport	25p	79	380	− 3	390	118
Barclays Bank	£1	62	309	− 3	325	112
BP	£1	58	590	+ 3	598	190
Lonrho	25p	55	122	+11	159	68
"Bats"	25p	53	333	+ 3	338	164
GEC	25p	51	143	+ 1	147	51
Midland Bank	£1	51	296	− 2	308	122
Royal Ins.	25p	51	318	—	320	106
Beecham	25p	50	344	+27	344	116
Metal Box	£1	49	274	+ 7	286	109½
Natl. Westminster	£1	48	239	−16	275	88
Distillers	50p	47	129	+ 3	150	65½
EMI	50p	46	227	− 3	233	62
Debenhams 'New'	Fly./pd.	45	86	+ 1	87	79

YESTERDAY—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on day	1975 high	1975 low
ICI	£1	18	320	+ 5	323	118
Shell Transport	25p	13	380	+ 6	390	118
Beecham	25p	12	344	+12	344	116
Lloyds Bank	£1	10	239	+ 4	265	94
Burmah Oil	£1	9	32	—	100	27
Glaxo	50p	9	360	+ 8	427	198
MEPC	25p	9	70	+ 6	231	53
Natl. Westminster	£1	9	239	+ 1	275	88
Barclays Bank	£1	8	309	+ 4	325	112
Cap. & C'ties Prp.	25p	8	18	+ 3½	38	10½
Courtaulds	25p	8	144	+ 4	154	53
Distillers	50p	8	129	+ 5	150	65½
Lon. & O'seas F'ts.	25p	8	40	+ 1¾	64	27½
Lucas Inds.	£1	8	178	+ 1	179	37
Royal Ins.	25p	8	318	+ 3	320	106

The above list of active stocks is based on the number of bargains recorded yesterday in the Official list and under Rule 163(1) (e) and reproduced to-day in Stock Exchange dealings.

Option Report—3-month Call rates

OPTION DEALING DATES

First Deal-ings	Last Deal-ings	Last Declara-tion	For Settle-ment
Nov. 11	Nov. 24	Feb. 5	Feb. 17
Nov. 25	Dec. 8	Feb. 19	Mar. 2
Dec. 9	Dec. 22	Mar. 4	Mar. 16

"Calls" were dealt in National Westminster Bank Warrants, Amalgamated Investment, Capital and Counties, House of Fraser, Dunlop and Charterhall Finance. No "puts" were reported, while "doubles" were arranged in British Land, House of Fraser and Slater Walker.

Industrials		Guardian	20	Spillers	5	Shell	28
		G.K.N	22	Tesco	6	Ultramar	20
A. P. Cement	15	Hawker Sidd.	27	Thorn "A"	20		
Assoc. Leisure	3	House of Fraser	8	Tube Invest.	27	Mines	
Barclays Bank	25	I.C.I	21	Unilever	40	Anglo Amer.	50
Beecham	28	"Imps"	7	Utd. Drapery	10	Charter Cons.	19
Boots Drug	12	I.C.L.	7	Vickers	15	Chart'rh'll Fin.	6
Bowaters	16	Inveresk	7	Williams Hud'n	4	Cons. Gold	18
B.A.T.	30	Legal & General	13	Woolworths	6	De Beers Def.	35
British Leyland	7	Ladbroke	11			F. S. Geduld	350
BOC Int.	5½	Lloyds Bank	22	Property		Great Boulder	12
Burton 'A'	7	"Lots"	5½	Amal. Inv.	4	Hampton Areas	14
Cadburys	6	"Mams"	6	Brit. Land	54	Hampton Prop.	4
Courtaulds	11	Marks & Spencer	11	Cap. Counties	4½	Kloof	140
Debenhams	8	Midland Bank	25	E.P.	8	Lonrho	13
Distillers	13	Nat' West Bank	22	Land Securities	18	Loraine	55
Dunlop	6½	"do" Warrants	10	MEPC	9	Poseidon	55
Eagle Star	13	P & O Dfd.	11	Peachey	6	Pres. Steyn	275
E.M.I.	17	Plessey	8	Town & City	4½	Rio T. Zinc	20
Gen. Accident	16	R.H.M.	6	Town & Comm.	4	Welkom	55
Gen. Electric	13	Rank Org. 'A'	18			West Areas	75
Glaxo	35	Reed Int'l	23	Oils		Western M'ng.	18
Grand Met.	7	Rothmans	4	Brit. Petroleum	42		
G U S. 'A'	17	Slater Walker	5½	Burmah Oil	4		

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual gross interest	Interest payable	Minimum sum	Life of bond
	%		£	Year
Barking (01-592 4500)	12	½-year	1,000	2-5
Burnley (0282 25011)	12½	½-year	1,000	3-5
Coventry (0203 25555)	12½	½-year	1,000	2
Greenwich (01-854 8888)	12½	½-year	500	3-5
Islington (01-226 1234)	12¾	½-year	5,000	4-7
Liverpool (051 227 3011)	12	½-year	500	3-4
Liverpool (051 227 3911)	12½	½-year	500	5-7
Manchester (061 236 3377)	12½	½-year	500	3
Oxford (0865 49811)	12½	½-year	5,000	3-5
Peterborough (0733 63141)	12½	Yearly	1,000	2
Peterborough (0733 63141)	12¾	Yearly	1,000	3-5
Reading (0734 55911)	12½	½-year	500	2
Reading (0734 55911)	12¾	½-year	500	3-4
Redbridge (01-478 3020)	12¾	½-year	1,000	3-5
Sandwell (021 569 2226)	12½	½-year	1,000	2-5
Southend (0702 49451)	12½	½-year	250	2-4
Thurrock (0375 5122)	11½	½-year	300	1-2
Wandsworth (01-874 6464)	12½	½-year	5,000	5-7
Wandsworth (01-874 6464)	12¾	½-year	1,000	5-7
Wrekin (0952 3571)	12½	½-year	2,000	2-5

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Dep.	Share Accnts.	Sub'pn Shares	Variable Term Shares
Abbey National	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	●8.00%
Alliance	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	‡‡7.75%
Anglia	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	‖7.75%
Birmingham Incorporated	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
Bradford and Bingley	6.75%	7.00%	§8.25%	—
Bristol and West	6.75%	7.00%	8.00%	—
Bristol Economic	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	†7.25%
Cardiff	6.75%	7.50%	8.50%	—
Chelsea	6.75%	7.00%	9.00%	†7.25%
Cheltenham and Gloucester	6.75%	7.00%	—	‡7.75%
Citizens Regency	6.75%	7.25%	8.75%	—
City of London	7.00%	7.50%	8.25%	—
City and Metropolitan	6.75%	7.25%	7.50%	¶8.00%
Coventry Economic	6.75%	7.00%	8.75%	§§7.75%
Gateway	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	¶7.75%
Greenwich	6.00%	7.10%	8.50%	—
Guardian	6.75%	7.25%	7.50%	†7.65%
Halifax	6.75%	7.00%	7.50%	¶7.75%
Hastings and Thanet	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
Hearts of Oak & Enfield	6.75%	7.25%	8.50%	—
Hendon	7.00%	7.30%	—	*8.05%
Huddersfield and Bradford	6.75%	7.00%	8.50%	♡7.75%
Leamington Spa	6.87%	7.12%	9.50%	7.50%
Leeds and Holbeck	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
Leeds Permanent	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
Leek Westbourne and ECBS	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	¶¶7.75%
Leicester	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	††7.75%
Liverpool	6.75%	7.00%	8.30%	*7.50%
Magnet	6.75%	7.00%	7.75%	♡7.75%
Mornington Permanent	6.45%	7.65%	—	—
National Counties	7.00%	7.25%	8.25%	◊7.75%
Nationwide	6.75%	7.00%	7.50%	⊕8.25%
Newcastle Permanent	6.75%	**7.00%	7.75%	8.00%
Northern Rock	6.75%	7.00%	8.00%	‡7.75%
North London	7.50%	8.00%	—	⊕8.95%
Norwich	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
Paisley	6.75%	7.00%	7.50%	¶¶7.50%
Property Owners	6.75%	7.50%	8.50%	†7.85%
Provincial	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	7.75%
Skipton	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	†7.25%
Sussex Mutual	6.75%	◊7.30%	—	—
Town and Country	6.50%	7.00%	10.00%	¶¶7.75%
Woolwich Equitable	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	¶7.75%

*Minimum £2,000 6 mths. notice. † 3 mths. ‡ 3 yrs. § 3 yrs. including bonus. ¶ Min. £500 2 yrs. fixed. ‖ 4th issue 2 yrs. ● 2 yrs. over £5,250. ** 7.50% over £5,000. †† 2-3 yrs. ‡‡ 2 yrs. §§ 7.50% 3 mths. notice after 9 mths. ¶¶ 2 yrs. £1,000 min. ♡ Min. £100 2 yrs. fixed. ◊ Min. £1,000 6 mths. notice. ⊕ 3 yrs. over £5,000. ◊ £5,000 and over 7.55%. † Min. £1,000 3 mths. notice.

U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCKS 21/11/75

Statistics provided by *data STREAM international*

Name and description	Size (£m.)	Current price	Terms*	Con-version dates	Flat yield	Red. yield	Premium† Current	Premium† Range‡	Income Equ.§	Income Conv.¶	Income Diff.♡	Cheap(+) Dear(−)◊ Current
Alcan Aluminum 9pc Cv. 89-94	12.00	60.00	100.0	76-80	15.9	16.6						
Associated Paper 9½pc Cv. 85-90	1.40	77.00	200.0	76-85	12.9	13.7	2.7	3 to 19	51.0	50.7	− 0.5	− 3.2
Bank of Ireland 10pc Cv. 91-96	10.25	150.00	35.7	77-90	6.7	5.3	13.5	10 to 22	44.1	61.2	12.9	− 0.6
BPB 7¾pc Cv. 89-94	4.89	100.00	62.0	72-80	7.8	7.9	3.4	2 to 24	23.5	25.5	2.1	− 1.3
English Property 6½pc Cv. 98-03	19.16	98.00	234.0	76-80	6.7	6.7	− 8.0	−18 to 0	34.7	19.4	−14.3	− 6.4
English Property 12pc Cv. 00-05	15.40	96.00	150.0	76-84	12.6	12.6	40.7	19 to 50	34.0	56.3	32.6	− 8.0
Grand Met. 10pc Cv. 91-96	125.50	94.00	120.2	73-78	10.8	10.9	8.6	5 to 16	11.3	17.2	6.8	− 1.8
Hanson Trust 6½pc Cv. 88-93	4.51	80.00	57.1	76-86	8.2	8.9	17.2	5 to 23	31.8	34.6	4.1	−13.1
Hewden-Stuart 7pc Cv. 1995	0.72	150.00	280.0	75-95	4.7	3.6	5.0	− 5 to 30	56.0	47.2	− 6.2	−11.2
Lyons, J. 7¾pc Cv. 1981	3.60	73.00	22.7	75-81	10.1	14.6	108.6	101 to 150	12.5	27.5	42.8	−65.8
Slough Estates 10pc Cv. 87-90	5.50	133.00	125.0	78-87	7.5	5.9	35.5	30 to 42	25.4	53.4	28.5	− 7.0
Tozer, Kemsley 8pc Cv. 1981	7.33	85.00	153.8	74-79	9.5	11.7	25.6	26 to 44	14.7	21.6	10.1	−15.5
Wilkinson Match 10pc Cv. 83-98	11.10	87.00	40.0	76-83	11.4	11.5	52.1	46 to 70	24.2	44.2	35.0	−17.1

* Number of Ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent. of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. ‡ Three-month range. § Income on number of Ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is summed from present time until income on Ordinary shares is greater than income on £100 nominal of convertible or the final conversion date whichever is earlier. Income is assumed to grow at 5 per cent. per annum and is present valued at 15 per cent. per annum. ¶ Income on £100 of convertible. Income is summed until conversion and present valued at 15 per cent. per annum. ♡ This is income of the convertible less income of the underlying equity expressed as per cent. of the value of the underlying equity. ◊ The difference between the premium and income difference expressed as per cent. of the value of underlying equity. + is an indication of relative cheapness, − is an indication of relative dearness.

STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Modest demand prompts improvement in leaders

Index up 4.5 at 376.6, for a rise of 11.0 on the week

Account Dealing Dates

Option *First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Nov. 3	Nov. 13	Nov. 14	Nov. 25
Nov. 17	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	Dec. 9
Dec. 1	Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 23

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9.30 a.m. two business days earlier.

Equity markets resumed an upward path yesterday. The leaders were inclined easier at the start in anticipation of further profit-taking, but soon steadied when this failed to materialise. Thereafter, a modest demand was sufficient to nudge prices gently forward and final quotations were mostly around the day's best. The FT 30-share index closed 4.5 higher at 376.6, for a rise on the week of 11 points. Although the volume of demand left much to be desired, the tone at the close was fully firm, sentiment being given a further fillip in the latter dealings by news of the reduction to 7 per cent. in the U.S. Citibank's Prime Rate.

The announcement of a new short "tap" stock coupled with the U.S. Prime Rate reduction stimulated late interest in British Funds, but closing movements were marginal. The Government Securities index hardened 0.03 to 58.56, which left it a mere 0.01 down on the week.

In contrast to the earlier part of the week, secondary issues took a back seat. However, small gains predominated, this being reflected in the 10-9 majority of rises over falls in FT-quoted Industrials. The FT-Actuaries All-Share index improved 0.4 per cent. to 158.99, making a rise of 1.92 per cent. on the week.

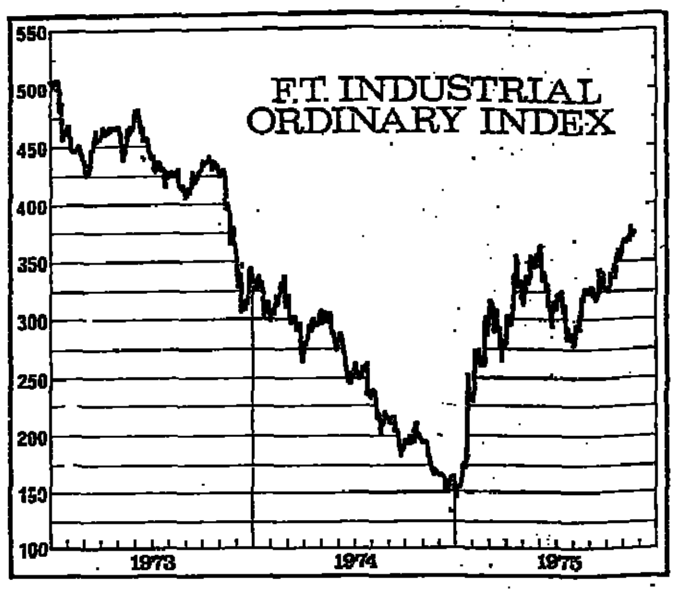
New "tap" stock

Interest quickened late in Gilt-edged following the ½ per cent. cut to 7 per cent. in a U.S. Prime rate and more so after the unexpected announcement of a new short "tap" stock to replace the medium/short Treasury 11½ per cent., 1981, of which insufficient remains to form an effective "tap." To avoid confusion with the existing Treasury 10½ per cent., 1979, maturity, the new stock will carry an "A" prefix; a tranche of £600m. will be issued at 95½ and the terms are pitched in line with existing issues. The absence of a new low-coupon short created fresh demand late for selected issues some of which rose ¼. Interest also flared for the old "tap," Treasury 11½ per cent., 1981, and the long "tap," Treasury 12¾ per cent., 1992.

An increased volume of business in investment currency was enlarged by end-week book squaring operations and the premium rose to 110¼ per cent. before closing a net point higher at 109¼ per cent. Gathering speculation of pending developments brought renewed strength in Romanian bonds and the 4 per cent. Consols rose two points further to £19½: the 7 per cent. Monopoly improved similarly to £18½. Yesterday's SE conversion factor was 0.6084 (0.66112).

A.N.Z. up

Slightly easier at the outset following adverse Press comment, the big four Banks picked up well in moderate trading to close with improvements to 4 as in Barclays, 309p, Lloyds, 239p, and Midland, 296p: National Westminster were only a penny better at 239p. Australian issues did well with Australia and New Zealand particularly favoured at 430p, up 18: the results are due December 1. Commercial Bank of Australia added 10 to 275p and National Bank of Australasia put on 7 at 310p. A Press "sell" recommendation left Discounts with small losses: Cater Ryder shed 5 at 255p and Gillett Bros. receded 4 at 195p. Irregular Merchant banks had Hambros 2 up at 187p ahead of Tuesday's interim results. Slater Walker remained nervous at 22p, down a penny.



Composite Insurances closed the week on a quietly firm note. Phoenix gained 4 at 218p and "Royals" improved 3 to 318p. Among Brokers, after the previous day's jump of 63p following the agreed bid terms offered by Alexander Howden, Halford Shead ran back 4 to 294p. Brentnall Beard, however, improved 2 more to 82p on bid hopes, making an advance on the week of 12.

A rise of 5 to 129p in Distillers was the only price movement worthy of note in the Drinks sector.

H. and R. Johnson-Richard Tiles continued firmly, closing 16 higher at 189p, after 193p, on small, but persistent, buying. French Kier were supported up to 8½p, a rise of 1½. Marchwiel contrasted with a fall of 5 to 114p on profit-taking following the interim figures.

ICI closed 5 better at 320p, making a rise on the week of 7. Awaiting the outcome of the current bid talks with Bowater, Stewart Plastics declined 4 more to 95p.

Grampian TV "A" closed a penny harder at 28p following the half-yearly report.

EMI rise

Further X-ray scanner orders coupled with favourable Press comment helped EMI to improve 6 to 227p. Thorn Electrical ended similarly higher at 216p, while other leading Electricals continued to fluctuate in fairly quiet trading before closing on a firm note. GEC were finally 3 up at 143p, after 138p. Philips' Lamp, however, softened another 10 to 800p. Secondary issues closed on a mixed note. Brocks Group ended 4½ to the good at 45½p, after 47p, stimulated by the sale of its International Time Recording subsidiary for £1.8m. cash. Dorman Smith "A" rose 7 to 105p, but Electrocomponents declined 4 to 118p and Chloride 3 to 103p.

Stores closed on a firm note following a quiet trade. "Gussies" "A" were steady at 193p, while Marks and Spencer, 106p, and UDS, 87p, both closed a penny harder. Wades Departmental "A" moved up 4 to 38p, while Readicut International edged up 1½ to 23p and Bolton Textile firmed 1½ to a 1975 peak of 13½p. E. Upton "A" hardened 2 to 30p; the price in the previous day's paper was incorrect.

Leading Engineerings were none too certain at the start, but they rallied and Hawker closed 4 higher at 338p, while Tube Investments, 294p, and GKN, 256p, after 250p, recovered 2 apiece. Vickers improved late to end 3 dearer at 152p. Elsewhere, the expected improvement in export orders caused RCF to harden 1 to 34p, but Renold lost 3 to 135p, still reflecting the first-half setback. Continuing bid speculation raised Hall Thermotank 3 to 88p, while B. Priest picked up 5 to 61p and E. Chalmers 3 to 28p. Haden Carrier were again to the fore at 105p, up 4. Awaiting publication of the Shipbuilding and Aerospace Nationalisation Bill, Robb-Caledon rose 4 further to 46p and Swan Hunter 1½ to 59p.

Foods were narrowly irregular. Tate and Lyle, at 262p, regained half of the previous day's fall of 4, while Geo. Bassett, 87p, and Kinloch (Provision Merchants), 140p, put on 3 and 4 respectively. Clover Dairies held at 85p in front of Monday's interim report.

Beecham strong

Beecham featured strongly with an advance of 12 to 344p, still on the first-half profits upsurge. Other miscellaneous Industrial leaders edged ahead after early hesitancy and closed with rises to 8, as in Glaxo, 360p. Unilever improved 6 to 428p. Elsewhere, favourable Press comment prompted a rise of 6 to a peak for the year of 28p in Fairbairn Lawson, while National Carbonising, on further consideration of the interim report, put on 2½ to 23p. Gains of around 5 occurred in Richardson Smith, 48p, and Unicorn Industries, 68p. In contrast, U.K. Optical receded 5 to 106p, unsettled by the Government's decision to refer privately supplied spectacle frames and lenses to the Price Commission. Wedgwood down to 206p in front of the interim results, closed a net 2 down at 208p after the news.

Press comment directed attention to Brown Bros., which moved up 2½ to a 1975 peak of 18p in active trading. Dunlop closed 2 up also at a year's peak of 72p, but British Leyland, reflecting labour problems, finished a penny easier at 35p. Houchin improved 4 to 44p. British Car Auction featured irregular Garages with a rise of 6 to 46p.

Properties higher

With Press comment on the half-year statement from Land Securities failing to provide fresh incentives, leading Properties opened easier in quieter trading; however, the market was given new encouragement later by the annual statement and better-than-expected results from Capital and Counties and a good business ensued to leave the price at the day's best at 18p, up 3½. Land Securities, after easing to 181p, improved to 187p for a net gain of 4 and an advance on the week of 20. MEPC picked up 6 more to 70p and English Property 2½ to 48½p, while Amalgamated Investment and Property finished fractionally firmer at 17p, after 15p.

Leading Oils soon shrugged off initial hesitancy, Shell rising from 372p to close a net 6 higher at 380p. British Petroleum performed similarly, moving between 582p and 593p before ending 5 up on balance at 590p; scattered U.S. selling was reported at the higher levels. Revived speculative demand lifted Anglo-Ecuadorian 5 to 58p. Features in the overseas section included Sunningdale, 20 better at 445p, and Southern Pacific Petroleum, 4 dearer at 26p. News of the first-half setback lowered Century Oils 1½ to 36p.

Among Overseas Traders, S. and W. Berisford, in ex "rights" form, relinquished 4 more to 132p, while the new nil-paid drifted down from an opening level of 109p premium to close at 102p premium.

Speculative buying fuelled by a revival of rumours that the company has sold a large tanker helped John I. Jacobs harden 1½ to 19p in firm Shippings. Buying of a similar nature following Press mention also helped "Lofs" rise a like amount to 40p. Walter Runciman gained 7 at 125p and Felixstowe Dock edged forward 2 to 125p; shareholders in the latter voted at the AGM to accept proposals for the planned take-over by the British Transport Docks Board.

Quietly firm Trusts and Financials had Jersey General 10 better following the half-year results and Akroyd and Smithers 2 dearer at 198p in front of Tuesday's preliminary results.

A dull market of late following the disappointing first-half profits and the Board's bearish remarks about second-half prospects, Courtaulds returned to favour in Textiles, rising 4 at 144p. Still taking heart from the Government's hint of selective import controls in the near future, second-liners gained ground in places. Improvements of around 2 were seen in A. Beckman, 67p, John Bright, 34p, and A. Martin, 34p, while newspaper comment helped Hollas put on 4 at 36p.

Poor week for Golds

The two-day rally in Gold shares came to an abrupt halt owing to continuing uneasines concerning the Angola-South West Africa border situation, the lower bullion price in overnight transatlantic markets and the subsequent fall in London.

Jobbers marked down shares at the opening and in the face of Cape and U.S. selling, prices fell further although modest Continental "cheap" buying enabled them to close just above the worst. The Gold Mines index retreated 7.4 to 229.3, a loss of 22.4 on the week. Bullion was finally $141.25, down $1.25 on the day and 75 cents lower over the longer period.

Financials were generally easier despite the firmness of the U.K. Industrial market. A notable exception was Selection Trust, which recovered most of Thursday's fall, which had followed the lower half-year profits, to close 10 better at 485p. Charter Consolidated eased 2 to 174p; the company announced an increased interim dividend and higher half-year profits on Tuesday.

Anglo-Vaal recovered an earlier fall of ½ to close unchan[ged at] £13; at yesterday's meeti[ng the] chairman said that the gr[oup is] budgeting for increased pr[ofits in] the current year.

In mixed Australians, P[an Con]tinental eased 5 to 800p b[ut] showed a rise of 75p on th[e week] on considerations of gold [pros]pects at Jabiluka.

Tins were quietly firm[,] Ayer Hitam 7 better at 160p[,] where "Tanks" rose a fur[ther] to 167p, one sizeable buy[er] reported.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

—	Nov. 21	Nov. 20	Nov. 19	Nov. 18	Nov. 17	Nov. 14
Government Secs.	58.56	58.53	58.55	58.49	58.59	58.57
Fixed Interest	58.91	58.91	59.01	58.98	58.87	59.05
Industrial Ordinary	376.6	372.1	377.8	376.6	375.5	365.6
Gold Mines	229.3	236.7	233.8	227.4	259.5	251.7
Ord. Div. Yield %	5.62	5.70	5.62	5.65	5.66	5.79
Earnings Y'ld % (full) (a)	15.67	15.82	15.60	15.68	15.71	16.08
P/E Ratio (net) (a) (b)	9.28	9.21	9.34	9.29	9.27	9.05
Dealings marked	7,095	7,664	8,680	9,645	8,297	7,757
Equity turnover £m	—	77.66	74.65	92.46	75.88	70.45
Equity bargains total	—	17,816	19,106	21,624	21,251	19,269

10 a.m. 371.9. 11 a.m. 374.2. Noon 373.9. 1 p.m. 374.8. 2 p.m. 375.6. 3 p.m. 373.8.
Latest Index 01-246 8026.
(a) Based on 52 per cent. corporation tax. (b) Nil=9.21.
Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/1/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Ind. Ord. 1/7/35. Mines 12/9/55. SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.

HIGHS AND LOWS

—	1975 High	1975 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
Govt. Secs.	62.34 (20/3)	49.18 (3/1)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int.	62.31 (31/3)	50.53 (3/1)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind. Ord.	377.8 (19/11)	146.0 (6/1)	543.6 (19/5/72)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	442.3 (22/5)	227.4 (18/11)	442.3 (22/5/75)	43.5 (28/10/71)

S.E. ACTIVITY

—	Nov. 21
Daily—	
Gilt-Edged	156.1
Industrials	255.1
Speculative	46.7
Totals	161.5
5-day Av'r'ge	
Gilt-Edged	168.6
Industrials	306.1
Speculative	69.9
Totals	189.0

F.T.—ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS — GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS. Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section.

	Groups & Sub-Sections	Fri. Nov. 21 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.) (Corp. Tax 52%)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 35%)	Est. P/E Ratio (net) (Corp. Tax 52%)	Est. P/E Ratio (nil) (Corp. Tax 52%)	Thurs. Nov. 20 Index No.	Wed. Nov. 19 Index No.	Tuesday Nov. 18 Index No.	Monday Nov. 17 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.	1975 High	1975 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	CAPITAL GOODS (179)	141.15	−0.1	16.29	5.87	9.20	9.19	141.05	142.60	145.86	140.26	57.69	143.25 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	50.71 (13/12/74)
2	Building Materials (30)	136.59	+0.3	13.06	6.02	11.70	11.69	136.25	137.47	138.19	135.35	52.57	138.19 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	44.27 (11/12/74)
3	Contracting, Construction (23)	257.71	−0.3	14.48	3.71	10.39	10.39	258.57	263.02	263.54	256.28	78.50	263.54 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	71.48 (12/12/74)
4	Electricals (17)	246.98	+0.2	16.53	4.70	8.86	8.86	246.39	249.80	254.66	247.20	98.46	254.66 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	84.71 (25/6/66)
5	Engineering (Heavy) (13)	160.41	−1.0	20.35	7.40	7.49	7.49	162.03	164.07	163.89	161.05	76.34	164.07 (19/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	64.39 (2/1/75)
6	Engineering (General) (63)	122.12	+0.1	17.95	6.86	8.33	8.33	122.03	123.15	122.89	121.18	53.29	123.15 (19/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	45.43 (6/1/75)
7	Machine and Other Tools (9)	50.91	+1.0	16.19	8.10	11.16	11.16	50.41	50.42	49.28	48.13	22.94	50.91 (21/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	19.96 (13/12/74)
8	Miscellaneous (24)	119.38	−0.1	17.99	6.63	8.30	8.30	119.48	120.32	119.82	117.52	58.94	121.76 (6/6)	[illegible]	[illegible]	49.65 (6/1/75)
9	CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE) (56)	116.68	+0.7	15.85	5.31	9.51	9.49	115.90	116.91	117.43	116.15	44.72	117.43 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	Electronics, Radio TV etc. (15)	128.40	+0.8	14.72	4.17	10.16	10.14	127.33	128.90	129.69	128.67	47.75	131.94 (10/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	Household Goods (14)	167.60	−0.4	14.27	6.25	10.27	10.23	168.33	168.90	168.72	166.78	70.29	168.90 (19/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
12	Motors and Distributors (27)	70.19	+0.9	18.25	6.68	8.41	8.41	69.58	69.97	70.25	69.18	26.63	70.25 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
13	CONSUMER GOODS (NON-DURABLE) (168)	150.59	+0.3	13.12	5.73	11.25	11.15	150.18	151.26	152.28	151.06	66.95	152.28 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	Breweries (15)	165.71	−0.4	12.36	6.19	12.25	12.25	166.44	166.76	169.33	171.15	76.66	172.53 (12/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
15	Wines and Spirits (7)	155.82	+1.4	12.25	6.47	12.39	12.39	153.63	153.72	156.96	157.02	98.40	177.94 (9/7)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
16	Entertainment, Catering (16)	180.57	+1.1	11.86	6.64	13.49	12.84	178.68	180.77	182.86	181.87	61.29	182.86 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
17	Food Manufacturing (22)	166.43	+0.7	12.80	4.89	10.91	10.88	164.36	165.83	166.80	164.43	62.17	166.80 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
18	Food Retailing (16)	150.35	+0.1	10.15	4.51	14.29	14.29	150.21	152.79	155.33	152.12	59.06	155.88 (10/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
19	Newspapers, Publishing (15)	160.87	+0.6	14.29	6.28	10.48	10.48	159.99	160.87	159.87	158.17	65.62	160.87 (21/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20	Packaging and Paper (13)	101.34	+1.0	21.96	7.53	6.78	6.78	100.37	101.01	100.75	97.89	51.36	107.12 (20/6)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
21	Stores (32)	128.15	−0.5	11.73	5.28	13.03	13.05	128.54	129.68	129.51	128.08	59.04	132.94 (24/10)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
22	Textiles (23)	160.30	+1.8	15.11	6.75	8.61	8.08	157.51	157.56	157.72	159.50	68.36	162.58 (12/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
23	Tobaccos (3)	215.02	−0.2	15.76	6.27	9.65	9.65	215.40	216.47	218.96	216.57	116.03	218.96 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
24	Toys and Games (6)	63.62	−0.2	21.45	6.25	6.48	6.48	63.76	63.61	63.68	62.82	26.57	63.76 (20/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	OTHER GROUPS (93)															
25	Chemicals (24)	193.12	+0.8	14.41	4.99	9.72	9.72	191.51	191.57	192.95	191.60	75.75	193.12 (21/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
26	Office Equipment (10)	90.71	−0.9	14.70	5.74	9.54	9.54	91.52	92.93	94.79	90.63	55.74	104.78 (17/4)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
27	Shipping (12)	397.14	+0.8	19.03	6.09	6.72	6.46	393.85	399.62	404.18	397.12	219.95	404.18 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	Miscellaneous (47)	153.76	+0.1	15.92	6.68	9.31	9.31	153.59	154.80	156.36	153.49	69.67	156.36 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
29	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (496)	149.82	+0.3	14.55	5.72	10.07	10.02	149.37	150.50	151.58	149.60	64.86	151.53 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
30	OILS (4)	334.20	+1.2	15.06	4.82	7.42	6.64	330.23	335.14	338.18	336.73	120.95	338.18 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
31	500 SHARE INDEX	166.17	+0.4	14.63	5.58	9.54	9.28	164.44	165.88	167.07	165.15	69.65	167.07 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
32	FINANCIAL GROUP (100)	137.90	−0.5	—	5.18	—	—	137.24	138.08	138.88	138.35	57.92	148.45 (20/5)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
33	Banks (6)	165.31	+0.7	17.79	4.85	8.61	8.61	164.24	167.40	168.84	170.38	64.15	177.11 (5/6)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
34	Discount Houses (9)	166.36	−1.3	—	7.41	—	—	168.52	169.90	171.15	168.04	92.18	171.13 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
35	Hire Purchase (5)	95.89	+0.8	—	6.61	—	—	95.10	95.83	95.98	96.70	59.19	134.59 (10/3)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
36	Insurance (Life) (9)	126.20	−0.2	—	5.42	—	—	126.41	126.91	129.31	126.01	48.75	129.31 (19/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
37	Insurance (Composite) (7)	109.63	+0.6	—	6.24	—	—	108.96	109.74	111.73	113.06	46.42	125.90 (20/5)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
38	Insurance (Brokers) (9)	230.94	−0.3	9.04	3.79	16.59	16.59	231.70	231.41	232.39	230.53	75.34	232.39 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
39	Merchant Banks (19)	88.38	+0.3	—	5.79	—	—	88.11	89.10	89.47	88.15	39.05	94.97 (7/3)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
40	Property (32)	166.89	+1.0	3.50	3.53	47.02	44.69	165.31	162.24	157.72	152.55	83.55	241.22 (22/4)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
41	Miscellaneous (4)	79.85	−0.4	12.56	6.05	12.73	12.57	80.17	80.50	78.84	76.46	39.21	80.50 (19/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
42	Investment Trusts (50)	176.86	−0.2	2.84	4.05	35.18	35.15	177.18	178.16	177.97	175.34	78.80	178.53 (6/6)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
43	ALL-SHARE INDEX (650)	158.99	+0.4	—	5.41	—	—	158.33	159.61	160.63	158.98	67.23	160.63 (18/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	COMMODITY GROUPS (Not included in 500 or All Share indices)															
44	Rubbers (9)	398.10	−1.5	16.23	8.42	9.41	9.39	404.12	408.41	410.06	399.28	276.34	525.43 (23/5)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
45	Teas (10)	110.48	—	41.87	9.54	3.49	3.41	110.48	116.74	116.48	119.77	76.49	124.57 (11/11)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
46	Coppers (3)	258.61	−3.1	46.73	6.64	2.14	2.14	267.01	256.17	254.41	253.37	377.58	467.74 (27/5)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
47	Mining Finance (11)	108.39	−0.8	11.06	4.71	10.21	10.21	109.26	108.99	110.37	112.32	93.05	141.34 (30/5)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
48	Tins (8)	96.14	+1.8	11.49	9.32	11.37	10.17	94.39	94.79	94.47	91.80	62.22	114.49 (13/8)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
49	Overseas Traders (13)	220.82	−1.0	15.16	4.75	8.45	8.42	223.04	226.62	226.74	226.51	—	252.23 (20/5)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	FIXED INTEREST	Friday Nov. 21 Index	Friday Nov. 21 Yield %	Thurs. Nov. 20	Wed. Nov. 19	Tuesday Nov. 18	Monday Nov. 17	Friday Nov. 14	Thurs. Nov. 13	Wed. Nov. 12	Year ago (approx.)	1975 High	1975 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	Consols 2½% yield	—	14.76	14.76	14.75	14.75	14.74	14.72	14.72	14.71	16.89				
2	20-yr. Govt. Stocks (6)	46.62	13.91	46.68	46.69	46.58	46.70	46.75	46.81	46.83	41.03	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	20-yr. Red. Deb. & Loans (15)	46.00	15.99	46.03	46.11	46.02	46.02	46.29	45.85	45.81	37.56	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Investment Trust Prefs. (15)	46.48	14.88	46.43	46.48	46.77	46.97	47.20	47.16	47.31	34.94	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	Coml. and Indl. Prefs. (20)	64.50	14.62	64.68	64.44	65.07	64.57	64.36	64.56	64.65	50.32	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] (table of base dates and base values for each section or group; † Redemption yield. A list of the constituents of the FT-Actuaries indices is obtainable from the Publishers, The Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. price 13p, by post 15p.)

MONEY + EXCHANGES

Fall in bill rate

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 11¾ per cent. (since November 14, 1975)

The Treasury bill rate fell by 0.0499 per cent. to 11.0385 per cent. at yesterday's tender, and the Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate was unchaged at 11¾ per cent. The minimum accepted bid was £97.24½ compared with £97.23 last week, and bids at that level were met as to 66 per cent. The £400m. bills tendered and allotted, attracted bids of £1,114m. All bills offered were allotted, while next week £400m. will replace £450m.

Day-to-day credit was in short supply again in the London money market and the authorities assisted by purchasing an exceptionally large amount of Treasury bills and corporation bills. The market was faced with a net take up of Treasury bills, an excess of revenue payments to the Exchequer over Government disbursements, gilt edged sales and an increase in the note circulation.

Discount houses paid 11½-11¾ per cent. for secured call loans in the early part, and rates rose steadily during the day to close in the region of 11-12½ per cent. In the inter-bank market, overnight loans opened around 11¼-11½ per cent. and rose sharply to stand at 12½-13 per cent. by mid-afternoon. By the close funds were available between 11 per cent. and 12 per cent. Short-term fixed period interest rates were marginally easier, with the three-month sterling certificate yield standing at 11⅜-11 7/16 per cent. from 11 7/16-11½ per cent., and the one-year 11½-11⅝ per cent. against 11 9/16-11 7/16 per cent.

Rates in the table below are nominal in some cases.

Nov. 21 1975	Sterling Certificate of deposits	Interbank	Local Authority deposit*	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House deposit	Company deposits	Discount market deposits	Treasury bills φ	Bank bills φ	Fine trade bills φ
Overnight	—	11-13	—	—	—	11½-13	11-12½	—	—	—
2 days notice	—	—	11⅜-11½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
†7 days or 7 days notice	—	11⅝-11½	11½-11⅝	—	—	—	11⅜-11½	—	—	—
One month	11⅜-11 7/16	11¼-11 7/16	11⅝-11½	11¾-11	11¼-11⅞	—	11⅛	11 1/16-11	11¼-11 1/16	11⅛
Two months	11⅜-11 7/16	11¼-11 7/16	—	11¾-11¼	11¼-12	—	11	11 1/16-11	11 1/16-11⅛	11⅛
Three months	11⅜-11 7/16	11¼-11 7/16	11⅝-11½	11¾-11¼	11¼-12	—	10⅞-11	11 1/16-11 1/16	11⅛	11⅝
Six months	11⅜-11¼	11¼-11 7/16	11½	11¾-11¼	11¼-12	—	—	—	11⅛	12
Nine months	11 7/16-11 7/16	11¼-11⅝	—	11¾-11¼	11⅝-12½	—	—	—	—	—
One year	11½-11⅝	11⅝-11 7/16	12⅛-12 3/16	12-11½	11¾-12¾	—	—	—	—	—
Two years	—	11⅞-12⅛	12¾	12¼-11¾	—	—	—	—	—	—

[illegible] (notes: * Local authority and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days' fixed. * Long-term local authority mortgage rate nominally three years 13¼-13½ per cent.; four years 13¼-13½ per cent.; five years 13¾ ... φ Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rates for four-month bank bills 11¼ per cent.; ... 11½ per cent. Approximate selling rates for one-month Treasury bills 11-10 15/16 per cent.; ... three-month 11 1/16-10 15/16 per cent. Approximate selling rates for one-month Bank bills ... per cent.; and three-month 11 per cent.; for one-month trade bills 11½ per cent.; two-... month 11 13/32 per cent.)

Finance House Base Rate (published by the Finance Houses Association) 11½ per cent. from November 1. Clearing Bank Deposit Rates for small sums at seven days' notice 7 per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 11 per cent. Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 11.0385 per cent.

EXCHANGES AND BULLION

The U.S. dollar regained Thursday's losses in the foreign exchange market yesterday, its trade weighted average depreciation against 14 units since the Washington Currency Agreement, as calculated by Morgan Guaranty of New York, on noon rates, narrowed to 2.31 per cent. from 2.45 per cent. on Thursday, and 2.31 per cent. on Wednesday. One of the factors that helped the dollar make up ground in a thin market, was the meeting of end-week payment deadlines connected with some of New York's commitments.

Sterling remained steady throughout the day. Its trade weighted average depreciation (as calculated by the Bank of England), remained unchanged all day, and on Thursday's close, at 29.7 per cent. In terms of the dollar, the pound lost 55 points to close at $2.0410-2.0420 against $2.0465-2.0475.

Gold opened at $141¾-142¾ and in a day of little activity, the metal drifted easier through the two fixing levels of $141.85 in the morning and $141.35 in the afternoon, to close $1½ easier at $140¾-141¾. The krugerrand closed at $144-146 (£70½-71½) from $145½-147½ (£71-72) for domestic delivery.

The premium of the coin over its gold content widened to 2.65 per cent. from 2.63 per cent. in domestic dealings, and 3.01 per cent. from 2.98 per cent. in international dealings.

EXCHANGE CROSS-RATES

Nov. 21	Frankfurt	New York	Paris	Brussels	London	Amsterdam	Zurich
Frankf'rt	—	2.597 609	58.75 85	6.53-64	5.30 405	97.45 55	97.70 86
N. York	38.35-36	—	22.53-56	2.437-491	2.575-85	37.34-38	37.42-46
Paris	170.0 0.40	4.4095-4135	—	11 277 302	9.025 47	166.68 6.02	166.20 60
Brussels	15. 5-02	39.09 11	[illegible]5-87	—	79.87-80.0	14.82 71	14.72-75
London	5.31-32	2.0410 20	9.44 05½	79.95 80.15	—	5.44½ 45½	5.43½ 44½
Am'erdam	102.55 60	2.6603 6627	60.25 28	6.3035 303	5.439 444	—	100.26-33
Zurich	102.25-45	2.657 660	60.11 20	6.735 207	5.422-436	99.75 87	—

U.S. $ in Montreal. U.S. $=101.24-26 Canadian cents. Canadian $ in New York. $ C=98.63-65 U.S. cents. U.S. $ in Milan 680.40. Sterling in Milan 1390.90.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES*

Nov. 21 1975	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	W. German mark	Swiss franc
Short term	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7 days' notice	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Month	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three months	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Six months	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
One year	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] (notes on Euro-French deposit rates, long-term Eurodollar deposits and nominal rates; * Rates are nominal closing rates. Short-term rates are call for sterling, U.S. dollars and Canadian dollars, and two-days' notice for guilders and Swiss francs.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

OTHER MARKETS

[illegible]

FORWARD RATES

[illegible]

BASE LENDING RATES

AF1 International
Allied Irish Banks Ltd.
Anglo-Portuguese Bank
Henry Ansbacher
Banco de Bilbao
Banco de Jerez
Bank of Cyprus
Bank of N.S.W.
Banque du Rhone S.A.
Barclays Bank
Barnett, Christie Ltd.
Bremar Holdings Ltd.
Brit. Bank of Mid. East
■ Brown Shipley
Cayzer, Bowater Co. Ltd.
Cedar Holdings
■ Charterhouse Japhet
C. E. Coates
Consolidated Credits
Co-operative Bank
Copleys Bank
Corinthian Securities
Credit Lyonnais
G. R. Dawes
Duboff Brothers
Duncan Lawrie
English Transcont.
First London Secs.
■ Antony Gibbs
Goode Durrant Trust
Greyhound Guaranty
Grindlays Bank
■ Guinness Mahon
■ Hambros Bank
Hawtin & Partners
■ Hill Samuel
C. Hoare & Co.
Julian S. Hodge
Industrial Bank of Scot.
Keyser Ullman
Knowsley & Co. Ltd.
Lloyds Bank
London & European
London Mercantile
Midland Bank
■ Samuel Montagu
■ Morgan Grenfell
National Westminster
Northern Comm. Trust
Norwich General Trust
Portman Guaranty
P. S. Refson & Co.
Rossminster Accept'cs
Royal Trust of Canada
Schlesinger Limited
E. S. Schwab
Security Trust Co. Ltd.
Shenley Trust
Standard Chartered
Sterling Credit
Thames Guaranty
Trade Development Bk.
Twentieth Century Bk.
United Bank of Kuwait
Whiteaway Laidlaw
Williams & Glyn's
Yorkshire Bank

[illegible] (rates and footnotes: ■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee; * 7-day deposits; † 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under; † Demand deposits)

CORAL INDEX Close 375-380

I.G. INDEX GOLD 140½-143½

INSURANCE BASE RATES

† Atlantic Assurance [illegible]
Cannon Assurance [illegible]
† Address shown under Insurance and Property Bond table.

GOLD MARKET

[illegible]

SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHT RATES

[illegible]

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

[illegible]

Friends' Provdt. Unit Tr. Mgrs♥
Pixham End, Dorking. 0306 5055

Friends Prov. Uts.	29.3	31.3xd	......	4.05
Do. Accum.	34.6	36.9	+0.1	4.05

G.T. Unit Managers Ltd.♥
16, St. Martins-le-Grand, EC1. 01-600 8481

G.T. Cap. Inc	56.6	60.2	-0.4	5.00
Do. Acc	64.4	68.5	-0.4	5.00
G.T. Inc. Fd. Un.	102.8	109.3	+0.5	10.00
G.T. U.S. & Gen	121.8	129.5	-2.4	1.00
G.T. Japan & Gen	159.5	169.6	-2.6	1.00
♦Gt. Pens. Ex. Fd.	108.5	113.9	......	3.00

REGIONAL MARKETS

lowing the merger last year of U.K. stock exchanges, a selection of the share previously shown under regional headings is presented below with quotations idon Irish issues, most of which are not officially listed in London, are separately and with prices as on the Irish exchange.

Inv. 20p	16	......	Graig Ship. £1	330	......	Shiloh Spinn.	23	......
inning..	26	......	Hallam Sleigh 10p	6	......	Sindall (Wm.)	50	......
	21	......	Higsons Brew.	92	......			
Est. 50p	135	......	I.O.M. Stm. £1	120	......	**IRISH**		
Croft	35	......	Holt (Jos.) 25p	260	-5			
Rose £1	315	......	Kleen-e-Ze	18	......	Alliance Gas (£1)	75xd	......
R.A.	30	+2	Lovell's Ship £1	95	......	Carroll (P. D.)	128	......
McHdy.	76	......	N'thn. Goldsmith	90	......	Clondalkin	54	......
Y'k 10p.	36	......	P.M.A.	34	......	Concrete Prods.	80	......
	9	+1	Pearce (C. H.)	62	......	Goodbody (£1)	24	......
rge	43	......	Peel Mills	12	......	Heiton (Hldgs.)	30	+2
Pkg. 5p.	16	......	Richards 10p	12	......	Irish Distillers	75	......
Reed 50p.	115	......	RobbCaledonSh.	47	+4	Irish Wire	40	......
r & Sons	11	......	Sayers 12½p	8	......	Jacob	66	......
r (L.)	67	+2	Sheffield Brick	65	......	Sunbeam	10	-1
			Sheff. Refrshmt.	141	......	Unidare	63	......

INSURANCE, PROPERTY, BONDS

[illegible]

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

[illegible]

Intimis Management Co. N.V., Curacao.
NAV per share Nov. 17 $US22.77

Triumph Oceanic Int. Fnd. Mgrs.
8, Church St., St. Helier, Jersey. 0534 35811

International Fnd.	27.1	28.5xd	-2.7	4.20

*As at Nov. 21 next sub day Nov. 28

Tyndall Group♦ 0272 32241
Hamilton, Bermuda, & St. Helier, Jersey.

O'seas Dis. Nov. 19	$US1.12	1.18	......	6.00
O'seas Acc. Nov. 19	$US1.47	1.55	......	6.00
O(Stg.)Dist.Nov. 19	£7.15	7.55	+0.10	6.00
O(Stg.) Acc. Nov. 5	£9.45	10.00	+0.15	6.00
3-Way Int. Oct 23		$US2.22	......	—
Int. ManFd Oct. 31	83.4	87.4	......	—

United States Tst. Intl. Adv. Co.,
14, Rue Aldringer, Luxembourg.

U.S. Tst. Inv. Fnd.	$US11.90	-0.01	2.03

Net asset value Nov. 20

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
30, Gresham Street, EC2. 01-600 4555

Cnv. Bnd. Nov. 20	$US9.32	-0.09	—
Energying Nov. 20	$US11.65	+0.03	—
Grsh.St.$Fd Oct. 31	$US6.49	......	—

Warburg Invest. Mngt. Jrsy. Ltd.
8 Church St, St Helier, Jsy. CI. 0534 35511

CMF Ltd.Oct. 30	[illegible]	[illegible]	......	—
CMT Ltd. Oct. 30	£9.79	10.09	......	—
Metals Tst. Nov. 20	£9.48	9.63	+0.02	—
TMT Nov. 13	[illegible]	10.56	......	—
TMT Ltd. Nov. 13	£10.54	10.83	......	—

World Wide Growth Management♦
10a, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.

World Wide Gth. Fd	$US10.83	......	—

NOTES

Prices do not include $ premium, where applicable, and are in pence unless otherwise indicated. Yields % (shown in last column) allow for all buying expenses. a Offered prices include all expenses. b Today's prices. c Yield based on offer price. d Estimated. g Today's opening price. h Distribution free of U.K. taxes. x Offered price includes all expenses except agent's commission. y Offered price includes all expenses if bought through managers. z Previous day's price. ♥ Net of tax on realised capital gains unless indicated by ♦. § Guernsey yield. ‡ Suspended. ★ Single premium insurance bonds.

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

**BRITISH FUNDS

1975 High	Low	Stock	£	+ or -	Yield Int.	Red.
		"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)				
99⅞	94⅔	Exch.6½pc 1976‡‡	98¼	.....	6.58	11.16
97¼	92⅞	Treasury 6½pc 1976‡‡	96⅞	.....	6.72	11.31
99	97	Victory 4pc 1976‡‡	98½	.....	4.04	—
102	96⅞	Treasury 10½pc 1976‡‡	99⅞xd	-⅛	10.58	11.25
95¼	88⅞	Treasury 6¼pc 1977‡‡	95⅛	+⅛	6.57	10.28
95	86¼	Electric 3pc '74-77	95	.....	3.16	7.06
103⅝	96⅞	Treasury 11½pc '77‡‡	100¾	+⅛	11.41	10.98
92	84	Treasury 3pc '77‡‡	92xd	+⅛	3.26	7.42
91¼	84⅛	Transport 4pc '72-77	91¼xd	.....	4.38	8.64
96⅞	90½	Treasury 9pc 1978‡‡	94½	+⅛	9.53	11.81
100⅞	96	Treasury 10½pc '78‡‡	97⅞	+⅛	10.80	11.72
88¼	79	Exchequer 5pc '76-78‡‡	88¼	+⅛	5.67	9.82
103	94⅞	Treasury 11½pc '79‡‡	99⅞	+⅛	11.57	11.71
81⅞	71⅞	Treasury 3pc '79‡‡	81⅞	+⅛	3.67	8.74
83½	73⅞	Electric 4¼pc '74-79	83⅛	+¼	5.11	9.59
100⅞	94½	Treasury 10½pc '79‡‡	95⅞		11.01	11.99
—	—	Do. 10½pc '79 'A'	£95½E		10.99	11.96
81¼	71	Electric 3½pc '76-79	81¼xd	+⅛	4.28	9.06
95	84	Treasury 9pc 1980‡‡	89⅞	+½	10.08	12.27
95⅞	89¼	Treasury 9¼pc '80‡‡	90⅞xd	+⅛	10.51	12.36
79¼	68¼	Treasury 3½pc '77-80	79¼xd	+⅛	4.39	9.01
84½	71	Funding 5¼pc '78-80‡‡	84½xd	+½	6.21	9.52

Five to Fifteen Years

Over Fifteen Years

Undated

**INTERNATIONAL BANK

**CORPORATION LOANS

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS

LOANS (Miscel.)

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

U.S. $ DM Prices exclude inv. $ premium

AMERICANS

S.E. List Premium 64% (based on $2.0445 per £)

CANADIANS

S.E. List Premium 64% (based on $2.0702 per £)
Conversion factor 0.6684 (0.6112)

††BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

Hire Purchase, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER & ROADS

BUILDING INDUSTRY—Continued

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS, THEATRES AND TV

DRAPERY AND STORES

DRAPERY AND STORES—Continued

ELECTRICAL AND RADIO

ENGINEERING, MACHINE TOOLS

ENGINEERING—Cont.

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

HOTELS & CATERERS

HOTELS—Continued

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

INSURANCE

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Motors and Cycles

Commercial Vehicles

Components

Garages and Distributors

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

PROPERTY—Continued

SHIPBUILDERS, REPAIRERS

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

SOUTH AFRICANS

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Investment Trusts

TRUSTS—Continued

Trusts, Finance, Land, etc.

OILS

OVERSEAS TRADERS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
£14¼	250	Durban Deep R1	290	−10	‡Q170c	ϕ	‡
£14	520	E. Rand Prp. R1	555	−15	‡Q115c	ϕ	‡
105	24	Rand Leases 25c	24	−2	—	—	—
£34½	£15¾	Randf'tn Est. R2	£16½	−½	—	—	—
500	130	West Rand R1	138	+3	‡Q40c	1.3	‡

EASTERN RAND

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
370	165	Bracken R1	182	−5	Q52c	ϕ	16.9
23	5	Daggafontein 50c	12	......	—	—	—
105	35	East Dag. R1	37	......	‡Q25c	ϕ	‡
140	6	Grnt Areas 5c	14½	......	—	—	—
380	115	Grootvlei 30c	118	−7	‡Q32c	1.1	‡
620	385	Kinross R1	410	......	Q54c	ϕ	7.5
190	62	Leslie 70c	64	−4	Q18c	ϕ	15.5
550	165	Marievale 70c	190	......	‡Q34c	1.1	‡
725	180	S. African Ld. 35c	195	−5	‡Q85c	1.2	‡
265	82	Vlakfontein R1	100	......	‡Q35c	1.3	‡
£13¾	710	Winkelhaak R1	710	−10	Q108	ϕ	8.4
120	36	Wit. Nigel 25c	36	−2	—	—	1.4

FAR WEST RAND

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
£11	615	Blyvoor 25	620	−20	Q100c	1.3	8.9
£21½	£12¾	Buffels R1	£12¾	−½	Q150c	1.4	7.8
430	195	Deelkraal R0.20	195	−3	—	—	—
£14¼	610	Doornfontein R1	630	−20	Q110c	1.4	9.3
£12¾	725	East Drie R1	850	−15	f55c	ϕ	4.2
450	190	Elsburg R1	200	−5	Q45½c	—	12.6
£31	£15	Hartebeest R1	£16¼	−½	Q215c	1.4	7.3
£13¼	620	Kloof Gold R1	650	−40	Q55c	1.4	4.7
£17¼	575	Libanon R1	590	−20	Q110c	1.9	10.5
£13¾	600	Southvaal 50c	660	−20	Q9c	0.9	0.8
480	210	Stilfontein 50c	220	−5	‡Q65c	1.3	‡
£33¼	£17	Vaal Reefs 50c	£19½	−¼	‡Q220c	1.7	‡
£11½	280	Venterspost R1	290	......	Q70c	1.9	13.5
£55	£33	W. Drie R1	£35¾	−¼	Q485c	1.2	7.5
745	275	W'st'rn Areas R1	295	−23	†Q70c	1.4	13.1
£23	£13	Western Deep R2	£14¾	−¼	‡Q160c	1.4	‡
536	290	Zandpan R1	295	−5	Q35½c	1.0	6.7

O.F.S.

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
400	160	Fr. State Dev. 50c	190	−5	Q14c	1.6	4.1
£32¾	£19	F.S. Geduld 50c	£20¾	−1	330c	ϕ	8.7
265	110	F.S. Saaiplaas R1	115	−5	26c	—	2.9
960	430	Harmony 50c	433	−20	Q77c	1.8	9.9
575	145	Loraine R1	154	−8	Q6c	ϕ	2.2
£28¼	£17¼	Pres. Brand 50c	£15¾	−¼	Q250c	ϕ	7.4
£25¾	£10	Pres. Steyn 50c	£10⅝	−⅝	Q125c	ϕ	6.3
£39¾	£19¾	St. Helena R1	£20½	−¼	Q250c	ϕ	6.7
340	168	Unisel	170	−5	—	—	—
525	245	Welkom 50c	265	−10	Q55c	ϕ	10.7
£40	£23	W. Holdings 50c	£26¼	−½	Q475c	ϕ	10.4

FINANCE

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
520	313	Ang. Amer. 10c	370	+2	†Q29c	2.0	4.3
£45½	£27½	Ang. Am. Gold R1	£25¼	−½	Q250c	1.4	4.7
£16¼	850	Ang-Vaal 50c	£13	......	Q65c	3.7	4.0
205	87	Charter Con.	174	−2	†6.21	2.2	5.5
290	188	Cons. Gold Fields	206	−2	6.7	4.3	5.0
32	17	E. Rand Con. 10p	18	......	0.92	1.4	7.9
435	230	Geduld Inv. R1	290	−10	†Q34c	0.4	6.5
£38¼	£19	Gen. Mining R2	£22	−¼	†Q210c	2.1	5.2
£39	£20½	G. Fields S.A. 25c	£22½	−½	Q225c	1.5	5.5
£27¼	£12	Joburg Cons. R2	£22¼	......	Q165c	2.5	4.0
530	260	Middle Wit 25c	330	−10	Q28c	2.0	4.7
315	182	Minorco SBD1.40	202	+2	Q15c	—	3.8
505	140	New Wit 50c	355	−3	Q20c	1.6	7.1
£11	710	Patino NV Fls 5	720	+10	Q40c	10.5	4.7
£11	660	Rand Selection 50	720xd	......	Q75c	ϕ	5.8
695	465	Selection Trust	435	+10	14.0	2.0	4.5
450	215	Sentrust 10c	217	......	Q30c	1.2	7.6
81	27	Silvermines 2½p	47	−1	‡4.0	1.6	‡
170	120	SW African 50c	135	......	17.67	2.6	20.4
£14	560	Tvaal Cons. Ld. R1	£11	−½	Q65c	ϕ	3.5
475	250	U.C. Invest R1	250	−5	Q36c	1.2	7.6
580	355	Union Crp. 0.25c	355	−5	Q42c	1.6	6.9
£23	13	Vereeniging R20	£21½	......	QR2.15	ϕ	2.8
105	30	Vogels 2½c	77	−1	Q6c	1.0	4.3

DIAMOND AND PLATINUM

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
£35	£15¾	Anglo-Am. Inv. 50c	£20	−½	Q290c	1.0	5.3
146	48	Bishopsgate Plt. R0.	86	−4	Q3.1	ϕ	2.0
333	161	De Beers Df. 5c	297	−3	Q25c	2.2	4.6
£17	£11½	Do. 40pc Pf. R5	£14	......	110	13.5	7.7
152	80	Lydenburg 12½c	100	......	Q2.9c	ϕ	1.5
248	100	Pot. Plat. 25c	164	−4	Q5c	ϕ	1.7
212	94	Union Plat. 10c	150	−2	Q4.9c	ϕ	1.8
212	95	Waterval 5c	150	−2	Q5.2c	ϕ	1.9

CENTRAL AFRICAN

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
345	150	Coronation 25c	150	−10	Q34c	ϕ	11.7
250	135	Falcon Rh. 50c	135	−10	†Q75c	ϕ	—
52	32	Globe Phnx 12½p	32	−2	1.25	ϕ	6.0
24	14	Rho-Corp. 16½p	14	−1	Q5	8.0	6.0
440	150	Roan Cons. K4	159	−10	Q16.0	4.7	8.3
230	92	Tanganyika 50p	157	+9	‡Q26	1.3	‡
75	60	Do. Pref. 80p	65	......	Q9	13.6	11.6
38	26½	Wankie Col. Rh1	30	−2	Q6½c	1.3	10.0
70	31	Zam. Cpr. SBD0.24	35	−1	Q1.90	3.2	5.3

AUSTRALIAN

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
28	10	Acmex 25c	24	−2	—	—	—
138	95	A. M. and S. 50c	135	+5	‡Q14c	1.5	‡
122	74	Bougainville 50c	84	......	Q27½c	3p	‡
242	145	BH South 50c	165	+5	—	—	—
215	60	Gold H. Ex'g $1	60	......	—	—	—
85	36	Gt. Boulder 10c	72	......	ϕQ2c	2.8	1.5
137	70	Hampton Areas 5p	83	......	1.18	4.2	2.1
115	30	Metals Ex. 50c	35	......	—	—	—
43	14	Metramar 20c	20	......	—	—	—
246	117	M.I.M. Hldgs. 50c	192	......	Q10c	1.8	2.9
135	80	Mt. Lyell 25c	90	......	Q5c	ϕ	3.2
3	1½	Newmetal 10c	2½	......	—	—	—
155	102	North B. Hill $1	136	+2	Q9c	1.4	3.7
16½	7	North Kalg. 30c	9	......	—	—	—
88	47	Oakbridge $A0	84	+2	Q8c	0.9	5.4
21	8	Pacific Copr. 25c	13	......	—	—	—
805	220	Pancont'l 25c	600	−5	—	—	—
25	9	Paringa MizEx 5p	10	......	—	—	—
465	235	Peko-Walls'd 50c	445	......	Q15c	ϕ	1.9
345	145	Poseidon 20c	155	......	—	—	—
4	2	Scemander 25c	4	......	—	—	—
26	8	Vultan Min. 50c	10	......	—	—	—
6	4	Westmex 10c	5	......	—	—	—
214	137	W. Mining 50c	145	+1	‡Q8c	8.6	4.1
50	26	Whim Creek 20c	26	......	—	—	—

TINS

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
56	32	Amal. Nigeria	46	......	5.62	1.6	18.8
161	77	Ayer Hitam	162	+7	13.0	ϕ	12.5
36	10	Beralt Tin	13½	−½	—	—	—
424	268	Berjuntai $M0.5	335	......	QSM2	ϕ	10.4
16	13	Gt. Lands 10p	18	......	15	3.8	12.3
246	153	Geevor	160	......	12	2.5	11.5
18	9	Gold & Base 12½p	9	......	—	—	—
268	157	Gopeng Cons.	190	......	‡14.25	ϕ	‡
73	55	Hongkong	62	......	—	—	—
58	40	Idris 10p	58	......	6.7	2.2	17.8
11	7	Jantar 12½p	8½	......	—	—	—
68	41	Kamunting 15p	46	......	7.0	1.2	23.4
165	135	Killinghall	135	......	13	—	13.7
192	106	London Tin 20p	160	+5	7.0	1.3	6.7
220	93	Malay Dredging	197	+2	10.7	ϕ	9.2
41	22½	♦Pahang	35	......	Qh2.6	ϕ	11.4
65	41	Pengkalen 10p	45	......	7.0	1.0	23.4
112	75	Petaling $M1	112	+2	—	—	—
23	8	Saint Piran	20	......	0.63	3.5	4.8
135	68	South Kinta 10p	103	......	9.5	1.5	14.2
180	73	Sthn. Malayan	144	......	10.7	ϕ	12.0
83	40	Sungei Besi $M1	40	......	‡6.0	3.0	‡
43	29	Supreme Corp. $M1	29	......	ZQ10	—	6.0
84	48	Tanjong 15p	50	......	4.35	2.3	13.4
75	50	Tongkah Hb $M1	53	......	Q23½c	ϕ	12.6
93	42	Tronoh	66	......	†4.02	3.5	9.4

COPPER

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
112	52	Botswana RST R2	52	......	—	—	—
390	196	Messina R0.50	270	−5	Q35c	ϕ	7.4

MISCELLANEOUS

1975 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
8½	3	Burma Mine 17½p	8	......	m0.5	—	1.7
65	17	Charterhall 5p	39	+½	—	—	—
115	40	Colby Mines $1	60	......	—	—	—
810	360	Cons. Murch. 10c	730	......	‡Q130c	2.2	‡
53½	29½	Laurasia	40	+2½	—	—	—
375	200	Northgate C$1	240	......	†Q25c	1.0	5.8
211	80	R.T.Z.	164xd	......	g5.51	4.4	4.6
135	47½	Sabina Inds. C$1	114	−3	—	—	—
81	45	Stanford Mines	53	......	—	—	—
£12½	874	Tara Exptn. $1	£10½	......	—	—	—
78	38	Yukon Cons. C$1	70	......	—	—	—

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures; they are adjusted to ACT of 35 per cent. P/Es are calculated on the basis of net distribution; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent. or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution. Yields, assuming maintenance of net dividends on current rate of ACT, are based on middle prices, are gross and allow for value of declared distributions and rights. Securities with denominations other than sterling are quoted inclusive of the investment dollar premium.

- A Sterling denominated securities which include investment dollar premium.
- ● "Tap" Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents.
- ϕ Figures or report awaited.
- †† Banks and Insurance: reserve allocations may preclude calculation of dividend cover.
- ¶ Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividend or forecast.
- ** Free of Stamp Duty.
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ‡ Not comparable.
- ϕ Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- § Based on 1973 profits.
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ★ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ♥ Excluding a final dividend declaration.
- ♣ Regional price.
- ‖ No par value.

a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. r Australian currency. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. w Yield allows for currency clause. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Issue price. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. H Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1974-75. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. U No significant Corporation Tax payable. Z Dividend total to date.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xd ex capital distribution.

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 17

FINANCIAL TIMES

Saturday November 22 1975

MAN OF THE WEEK

Trumpet with only one note

BY DAVID BELL

"IF THE trumpet sounds, who shall prepare himself for the battles."

With this biblical quotation Mr. Ronald Reagan starts the speech which he gives at each *place where his campaign comes* to rest. It is always the same speech and the former actor *knows his lines well.* Audiences—well dressed, clean cut and conservative like himself—respond warmly. No one, he says, can mistake the sound of his trumpet: "I have taken it to Washington to announce that I am a candidate for the Presidency."

But although it may be loud, there is a growing suspicion that this trumpet only plays one note. Big Government must be cut down to size. Federal spending reduced, the old values of competition and thrift revived. Inflation, unemployment, recession, bureaucracy and centralised power are all the result of the dominance of Washington. Sweep this away and things will again be as they once were—honest, uncomplicated and simple.

Simple past

His supporters yearn above all *for this "simple" past and seem* not to notice that the 64-year-old former Governor and film star *appears to have no real idea of* how to make their wishes come true. Behind the rhetoric there is scarcely a policy to be seen.

He is against school busing, gun control in its present form *and the current equal rights for* women amendment. He is for cutting Federal spending but declines to say how or where. On New York, for instance, he observed at his Press conference that "the only difference *between the City and the* Federal Government is that the Federal Government has a printing press." But when asked whether he favours some sort of Federal help for New York he said he had not studied the "specifics" enough.

Even on defence, where he has repeatedly stressed the need to keep America strong, he is vague about how large the defence budget should be and *what* how increasing it would *square with the need to cut the* Federal budget.

On detente he says: "Through *detente we have sought peace* with our adversaries. We should continue to do so, but we must make it plain that we expect a stronger indication that they also seek a lasting peace with us," he says.

Average person

It may be that he will "flesh out" his views with more con*crete proposals as the months* pass. Meanwhile, his presentation of himself as the average person who lives quietly, pays his taxes and does not at all like what's going on is serving him well. It has already thrown President Ford's faltering campaign off balance and may yet further split the Republican Party *if it prompts a liberal* Republican to run in the hope that he can save the party from a Goldwater type disaster.

But that does not concern Mr. Reagan at the moment. The tide is with him and reports from New Hampshire and Florida, the first two key primaries, are encouraging. Audiences are large and enthusiastic and he has yet to come under the intense questioning that will undoubtedly *reveal his shortcomings.*

Being an old Hollywood actor, meanwhile, does have its drawbacks. The Federal Election Commission has ruled that TV stations that show re-runs of "Death Valley Days," a TV series in which he starred and which ran for eight years, will have to meet requests for equal time *from other candidates.*

Public spending not out of control, says Treasury

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

IN A statement on Mr. Wynne Godley's evidence to the Commons Expenditure Committee, the Treasury accepts that public expenditure in 1974-75 was a good deal higher than that pro*jected in earlier White Papers,* even after allowing for inflation and announced policy changes.

But it does not accept the implication that Government spending was out of control. This is because it rejects Mr. Godley's *distinction* between expenditure changes "which were the subject of specific announcements" and other changes. It maintains that both kinds of changes were in keeping with the policy priorities of successive *Governments.*

The main areas involved appear to be housing, construction and land. The increase in the volume of housing expenditure in 1974-75 is regarded by the Treasury as an example of "a change in priorities in a service not necessarily requiring a policy change." It was *the policy of successive* Governments before and after the March, 1974, election "to leave the local authorities free to decide how many houses they might build."

The main differences between Mr. Godley's figure of £5bn. of excess expenditure and the Treasury's figure of £4bn. lie in *classification changes and the* Treasury's allocation of £0.4bn. of the increase to the contingency reserve

The Treasury's own analysis is in terms of an increase of £5.8bn. in spending in 1974-75 compared with that announced in Anthony Barber's White Paper of November 1971. This is after *allowing for inflation but does* not make a distinction between announced policy changes and other changes.

Of this £5.8bn. excess, £0.8bn. was accounted for by debt interest and £3.3bn. by "net volume changes." The remaining £1.7bn. was due to "unforeseen relative price changes." This is the Treasury's way of referring to an increase in public-sector costs and prices exceeding the general rate of inflation by an unexpectedly large amount.

The debt interest increase is stated to be a "projection" rather than "the object of policy." It is, however, admitted that it is related over a period to the Government's own fiscal and monetary decisions.

The £3.3bn. volume change is related to the Labour Government's "commitments to increased expenditure in a number *of fields, particularly social* security, housing and food subsidies." Some £1.3bn. related to housing, of which only £0.3bn. had been announced as a policy change.

The Treasury is at pains to stress that only £0.25bn. of the "unanticipated relative price effect" represents public sector wages. *The main element* was a £1.2bn. increase, above that expected in land prices and construction costs. By 1974-75 prices paid on contracts had risen 30 per cent. faster than the general price level.

Veto on BSC loan scheme

By Keith Lewis

THE TREASURY and Bank of England have temporarily crushed the British Steel Corporation's plans to raise up to *£70m. from the City institutions.* Opposition has apparently centred on BSC's intention to offer index-linked, inflation-proof terms to lenders, which may have been seen as a precedent for future Government lending.

The Bank and the Treasury are making no comment, though discussions are still continuing *between the various parties,* and the BSC has not withdrawn its basic idea of raising money in the City. An alternative, and less politically controversial scheme is expected shortly.

In three weeks the City has *promised to put up £58m.* out of a target figure of £70m., and it is thought that the response would have comfortably exceeded £100m. had it been allowed to continue.

The scheme, which had been approved by the Inland Revenue, would apparently have stood a greater chance of acceptance by the Government had the terms been on a completely off-balance-sheet basis and not in any way index-linked. Any new scheme could involve two or three separate sources of finance.

Portugal's Army tells Ministers to stay

BY PAUL ELLMAN — LISBON, Nov. 21.

PORTUGAL's military leader*ship to-day tried to head off* a collision between supporters of the sixth provisional Government and their Communist-backed opponents.

A meeting of the Revolutionary Council of the Armed Forces Movement (AFM)—the country's top decision-making body—ended an all-night meeting by censuring the *Prime Minister,* Admiral Jose Pinheiro De Azevedo, and his Ministers for going on strike yesterday.

It urged the Ministers to return to their desks until the present crisis was resolved—a process which, it said, could involve restructuring the Government in a way which would "satisfy the just preoccupations of the working *classes.*"

The Council's decisions reflected what appeared to *have been further significant* gains by its Left-wing members who have been pressing for a totally new political system based on what is termed here an "alliance between the people and the AFM" and which would by-pass the parliamentary system to which the country's major parties are committed.

General Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, who was confirmed by the Council in his position as chief of the internal security command, Copcon, has been entrusted with the task of formulating the structure of *the "alliance."*

The Council formally decided also to end plans to set up a new internal security force, AMI, which was initially intended to serve as a counterpoint to troops commanded by General Saraiva de Carvalho.

The appointment of Captain Vasco Lourenco as military *governor of the Lisbon region,* a post formerly held by Carvalho, is seen here as a relatively minor concession to the "group of nine" moderate officers who master-minded the campaign against General Goncalves.

A hint of General Saraiva de Carvalho's current thinking *was provided in an interview* published to-day in which he said that the sixth Government should be replaced by a "revolutionary council."

He blamed the "extraordinary degradation" of the *situation in Portugal on the* political parties.

Drypool left out of shipyards takeover

By John Wyles, Shipping Correspondent

HOPES THAT the Government's shipbuilding nationalisation plans would remove the threat hanging over 1,100 jobs at the financially-troubled Drypool Group were dashed yesterday by Mr. Eric Varley, the Industry Secretary, who announced that the group is being excluded from the scope of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill.

His statement coincided with publication of the Bill which contains few other major changes in legislation prepared earlier but abandoned because of an overcrowded Parliamentary timetable.

Exclusion of Drypool, which was put in the hands of the receiver in September, will provoke a major row on North *Humberside where local MPs and* trade unionists have pressed hard for public ownership. Mr. Walter Joester, regional secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, yesterday announced plans to call a one-day strike of the union's members on North Humberside next month and warned that calls for *nationalisation would continue.*

In a written Parliamentary answer, Mr. Varley said that he had decided that the best hope for saving Drypool jobs lay in selling off sections of the group to private buyers "who would bring in new management and provide new work."

Changes wanted

The Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association yesterday attacked the Bill as an "unwieldy and cumbersome document," and warned that it would *be pressing for changes in the* provisions for calculating compensation, for safeguarding assets and that it would want stronger guarantees against unfair trading.

Michael Donne writes: The maximum permitted financing limits of the aerospace corporation to be set up under the Bill *are being raised from £200m. to* £250m., including borrowing and public dividend capital.

This is to take account of the possible need to refinance certain debts of the companies involved (British Aircraft Corporation, Hawker Siddeley Aviation, Hawker Siddeley Dynamics and Scottish Aviation) after vesting day.

The Second Reading of the Bill is expected in a few weeks.

Other changes include a provision to enable the Government to make compensation payments on account. It is thought that as *it may take some time for com*pensation to be settled by negotiation, and if necessary by arbitration, the Government should have the power to make interim payments of compensation stock.

Nigeria assets freeze sought

BY GUY HAWTIN — FRANKFURT, Nov. 21.

A FRANKFURT civil court was asked to-day to freeze the assets *of the Nigerian Central Bank,* held by the Deutschebank, pending the settlement of a DM40m. claim against the bank in connection with Nigeria's cement problems.

Judgment will be given on December 2, and until then an interim injunction which has frozen the bank's assets for most *of this month will remain in* force. No indication of the size of the Nigerian Bank's German assets has yet been given.

The plaintiff is Yosseff M. Nada Establishments, a Liechtenstein-registered concern, which contracted to supply 240,000 tons of cement to the Nigerians. According to the company much *of the order was cancelled, while* cement is still aboard chartered vessels waiting in Lagos harbour to be unloaded, and running up demurrage charges.

Nada Establishments claims DM40m. for demurrage charges *and as compensation for losses* on 100,000 tons of cement, part of the Nigerian order, sold elsewhere because of suspension of contract.

It is a case of almost Byzantine complexity, as the lawyers for both parties admit. To-day the Nada Establishments legal team forecast that if the case went its full length, including the higher courts, cost to the company alone might reach DM2.3m.

The case appears to have arisen largely because of the inability of Lagos harbour to handle the quantities of cement ordered for development projects, many of them State-owned.

According to Nada Establishments the Bank of Nigeria provided an irrevocable letter of *credit to be drawn on the* Deutschebank to buy 240,000 tons of cement. Some 140,000 tons was shipped and paid for before the Nigerians suspended loading and shipment of the remaining 100,000 tons. Nada *Establishment, owned by Mr.* Yossef M. Nada, a Tunisian businessman who lives in Switzerland, sold the 100,000 tons at a loss. It seeks compensation for this and for demurrage charges. Of 17 cement ships *only seven have been unloaded.*

The last of the 17 vessels is said to have sunk in the harbour after a collision.

The case has serious implications for all Central Banks operating in a similar way in West Germany. Among the questions the court is asked to determine is whether the Central Bank of Nigeria, as an organ of a foreign State, is immune from such action. Its lawyers claim that the assets are in any event immune.

They also contest application *of Paragraph 23 of the West* German code of civil procedure to the case, which states that a foreigner's assets in West Germany can be seized for debts on transactions in third countries. The contract is under*stood to have been made in* Vienna.

In the U.S. Stolt-Nielsen Inc., shipping agents of Greenwich Connecticut, have filed a suit against Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., who are agents for the Bank *of Nigeria.*

Stolt-Nielsen are understood to be seeking payment of demurrage for at least four ships waiting to unload cement at Lagos. The ships were chartered by Transatlantic Steel of Baltimore on behalf of the First Columbia Company which says it was issued with an irrevocable letter of credit by the Nigerian Ministry of Defence to supply cement.

First Columbia's executive *vice-president Colonel George* Moranda is in Lagos awaiting further moves by the Nigerian Government which announced a general suspension of demurrage payments a fortnight ago.

Continued from Page 1

Rate support grant cut

advice, they would not be rating for any increase in expenditure "in real terms." They could *also look forward to a "declin*ing rate of inflation through 1976-77."

Economies in services provided by district councils which the Government had insisted on "could only be partially met." Commander Duncan Lock, chairman of the Association of District Councils, said yesterday *Local authority leaders in* general expressed disappointment at the cut in the proportion of relevant expenditure to be covered by the grant, while confirming their support for the Government's broad anti-inflation policy.

An announcement that London is to receive a larger share of the rate support grant, against the background of newly-introduced needs distribu*tion formulae—giving greater* emphasis to social needs, including overcrowding and poor housing—was described by Sir Lou Sherman, chairman of the London Boroughs Association, as a "fairer deal" for London.

Dissatisfaction that the Government had "not conceded the point that rateable values are not a fair basis on which to *distribute national taxation,"* was voiced by Sir Reg Goodwin, leader of the Greater London Council.

The moves by the Government mean that London's share of the "needs and resources" elements of the overall grant, which account for some three-quarters of the total, will rise to 14 per cent. in 1976-77, from 12.4 per cent. in 1975-76, which at November 1975 prices implies an eventual increase in the London share of "perhaps £120m." The full impact of the changes in the needs formulae, the Government has decided, "should be eased" in order to avoid major changes in the pattern of grant *distribution in the coming year.*

The Government has accepted the view of local authority associations that domestic rate relief should not be changed. The total of the domestic element for 1976-77 will, therefore, be similar to that for 1975-76, but will represent a smaller proportion of the rate support grant total.

Mr. Timothy Raison, Opposition spokesman on the Environment, said that unless local councils were willing to make economies in spending, substantial rate increases could be expected *next year.*

Weather

U.K. TO-DAY

DRY with sunny spells. Cloudy in S.W. England and Wales. Rain in N.W.

London, S.E., E., N.W., N.E., Cent. S., and Cent. N. England, E. Anglia, Midlands and Channel Isles

Dry. Sunny spells with mist. Night frost. Wind W., light. Normal. Max. 9C (48F).

S.W. England, Wales

Cloudy but dry. Wind S.W., light. Normal. Max. 11C (52F).

Lakes, I. of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, S.W., N.E., N.W. Scotland, Glasgow, *Cent. Highlands, Moray Firth,* Argyll, Orkney, Shetland and N. Ireland

Cloudy with *rain and hill fog.* Wind S.W., light, becoming moderate. Normal. Max. 8C (46F).

Outlook: Rain. Normal.

Lighting-up: London 16.33, Manchester 16.34, Glasgow 16.31, Belfast 16.44.

BUSINESS CENTRES

		Y'day mid-day °C	°F			Y'day mid-day °C	°F
Amsterdm.	F	6	43	Madrid	S	16	61
Athens	S	19	66	Manchestr.	S	4	39
Bahrain	S	24	75	Melbourne	C	18	63
Barcelona	F	17	63	Mexico C.	S	19	66
Beirut	S	25	77	Milan	F	11	52
Belfast	S	5	41	Montreal	R	2	36
Belgrade	S	5	41	Moscow	S	2	36
Berlin	F	3	37	Munich	F	1	34
Birmingham.	S	5	41	Newcastle	S	4	39
Bristol	S	6	43	New York	R	15	59
Brussels	S	6	43	Oslo	S	2	36
Budapest	F	5	41	Paris	S	9	48
B. Aires	S	27	81	Perth	C	21	70
Cairo	S	29	84	Prague	S	0	32
Cardiff	S	7	45	Reykjavik	C	7	45
Cologne	C	5	41	Rio de J'o	S	29	84
Copnhagn.	S	4	39	Rome	C	14	57
Dublin	F	10	50	Singapore	S	30	87
Edinb'gh	S	6	43	Stockholm	S	−2	28
Frankfurt	F	6	43	Strasb'rg	S	6	43
Geneva	S	6	43	Sydney	S	24	74
Glasgow	S	4	39	Tehran	S	16	61
Helsinki	S	−5	23	Tel Aviv	S	25	77
H. Kong	S	25	77	Tokyo	R	9	48
Jo'burg	C	17	63	Toronto	C	6	43
Lisbon	S	18	64	Vienna	C	3	37
London	S	9	48	Warsaw	F	0	32
Luxembg.	S	5	41	Zurich	S	3	37

HOLIDAY RESORTS

		Y'day mid-day °C	°F			Y'day mid-day °C	°F
Ajaccio	C	16	61	Las Palms.	S	21	70
Algiers	S	18	64	Locarno	S	11	52
Biarritz	R	12	54	Majorca	F	17	63
Blackpool	S	7	43	Malaga	S	22	72
Bordeaux	S	11	52	Malta	R	17	63
Boulogne	S	7	45	Nairobi	C	20	68
Casablnca.	C	18	64	Naples	C	12	54
Cape Town	S	20	68	Nassau	S	28	82
Corfu	F	17	63	Nice	F	14	57
Dubrovnik	R	6	43	Nicosia	C	23	73
Faro	S	20	68	Oporto	S	15	59
Florence	F	14	57	Rhodes	C	7	45
Funchal	C	18	64	Salzburg	S	1	34
Gibraltar	F	18	64	Tangier	S	18	64
Guernsey	F	9	48	Tenerife	F	16	61
Innsbruck	C	3	37	Tunis	R	15	59
Inverness	S	5	41	Valencia	F	20	68
I. of Man	S	8	46	Venice	S	12	54
Jersey	F	9	48				

S—Sunny. F—Fair. C—Cloudy. R—Rain

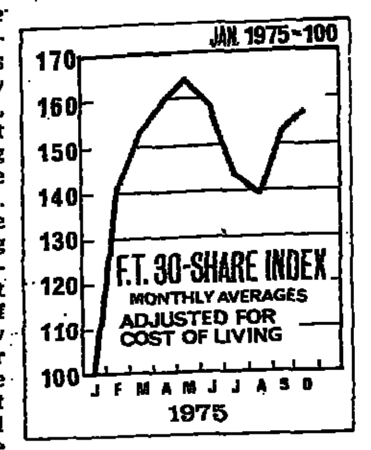
THE LEX COLUMN

When borrowing limits bite

Up 11 points on the week, the equity market has just about managed to hold on to the sharp gains established on Monday and volume has continued to be good. There is evidence, however, that the higher prices have tempted out quite a few very large lines of stock, placings of which have not always gone smoothly, putting pressure at times upon the market's underlying buoyancy. On the bullish tack, the argument has been going around this week that the institutions will be keen to get fully invested before the end of next month, rather than show substantial liquidity in their balance sheets. But the strength of equities has still not been supported by parallel trends in gilt-edged, where the *Government Broker has con*tinued his policy of mopping up demand without allowing sig*nificant advances in prices.*

The new short tap—priced right in line with the market *—seems to continue this pattern,* and attention could switch next week towards the longs, where *the 1992 tap may not be all* that far off exhaustion. But MLR was unchanged yesterday, *and transatlantic trends are* confusing: although Citibank has cut its prime rate it seems *to be moving very much on its* own, and the leaps in U.S. money supply in the past fort*night have rapidly absorbed all* the slack which had been encouraging the Federal Reserve to ease money rates.

Index rose 4.5 to 376.6



Capital & Counties

Capital and Counties has *sorted out the asset cover* problems on around £60m. of bank loans—caused by the fall *in net worth from £121.9m.* to £85.8m. in 1974-75—by increasing the security provided, and *now it is seeking to revise its* general borrowing powers. At present, the limit of three times capital and reserves is equivalent to £254m., compared with "relevant" debt of some £240m., and the directors recommend a new formula—based on whichever is the *greater* of the current limit or £260m. While debt is not, in fact, expected to rise during 1975-76, approval of the new rule would open the way for much higher gearing if net worth fell below the current level—and the directors' case is built on the flimsy view that "it is clearly unsatisfactory that borrowing levels, which were within the powers of the directors when established, should be capable of being invalidated by subsequent occurrences outside the directors' control."

Even at book values, the group remains very highly geared. Although investment properties were revalued last March, developments are included at cost, and in a qualification the auditors note the directors' view that the present market value of certain of these properties is likely to be substantially below the book figure of £60.6m. Nearly a third of this amount has already been sold for £2m. or £3m. less than book value.

C and C has sold about £45m. worth of property over the last 12 months, of which £20m. has been since the March year-end, but like Town and City, disposals have so far been barely keeping pace with capital spending. Commitments were £47m. in March and are falling fast. So debt should be on the *decline by early 1976 from the* March gross figure of £265m., of which £74.7m. is repayable *within five years and £104m.* is in Canada. In common with the other highly geared groups, C *and C shareholders face a long* wait before any worthwhile return: even though the banks may be adopting a waiting game as the best form of self-protection, there is always the *possibility of further equity* dilution in any capital reconstruction. For the moment, anyway, a capitalisation of £13.6m. at 18p still classes the group in a highly speculative light.

Nationalisation

The unwillingness of Government to alter irrational compensation for the shipbuilding and craft industries must reflect conviction that it will gain on the swings than it wil on the roundabouts—that increasingly unfair offe ship-repairing and aero more than make up for th gressive overvaluation of shipbuilders. But there ar or two welcome conces directors are less likely penalised for loss making nationalisation deals, and pensation can now be pa account. The latter pro will reduce the effective *through inflation during* spells at arbitration, bu payments will only be wh *Secretary of State hi* "thinks fit."

The Government is still ing to pay nearly 100p a for Robb Caledon despi large recent provisions. panies should not, hov under any circumstances for Government aid before ing day for then the Sec of State could make a "s declaration" that it probable that at some d the future the company be unable to pay its debt that would allow him to 95 per cent. off the com tion.

Wedgwood

Wedgwood's six-month *are 37 per cent. ahead at* pre-tax, and adjusting unrealised exchange gain second quarter is clearly up on the first with m more than an eighth wide course, realised currency are playing a substantial in the profits buoyancy a some extent these must margin comparisons: Wedgwood had a price *in Europe and at hon* August and it reckons s quarter volume growth tenth was a bit up on the ing three months. The remains steady but the pro in North America (say 4 cent. of total sales) ar easing and Wedgwood co starting to soft pedal a b its capacity extensions.

Overall profits this yea emerge a fifth higher for ings of 19p, which would a 1975-76 yield of 4.1 per close to 3½ times. Bu prospect of a more sh earnings pattern next yea not be ignored.

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